



**The National Women's Business Council and
International Council for Small Business'
Women's Entrepreneurship Committee**



**5th Annual Best Paper Award in
Women's Entrepreneurship**

ICSB World Conference 22-25 June 2008 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

DEADLINES: ABSTRACTS 18 FEBRUARY, PAPERS 2 MAY 2008.

VISIT www.icsb2008.org FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Purpose: The purpose of the Best Paper Award in Women's Entrepreneurship is to: encourage scholarly analysis and research in women's entrepreneurship; increase the level of understanding about the special challenges and needs of women business owners and their enterprises; and to make the connection between this analysis and understanding and public policy recommendations for action.

Nature of Award: The award shall consist of a certificate to the recipient and a cash award in the amount of \$1,000 USD. This award is being sponsored by the National Women's Business Council, a U.S.-based, Federally-funded, public policy advisory body created to serve as an independent source of advice to the U.S. President, Congress, and others on economic issues of importance to women business owners. The Council's mission is to: *conduct* research on issues of importance to women business owners and their organizations; *communicate* these findings widely; *connect* the women's business community to public policy makers; and provide programs and platforms for *change* in order to expand and improve opportunities for women business owners and their enterprises.

Selection Process: To be eligible for this award, the paper must be submitted to and accepted by the International Council for Small Business for presentation at its annual World Conference, and subjected to the established awards submission process. The judging for this paper will proceed in two stages. First, ICSB will convene a Panel of distinguished international experts in small business and women's entrepreneurship from four different continents. This committee will review all submitted papers to determine which papers meet research standards and are deemed worthy of the award. Then, a committee of members of the National Women's Business Council will make the final award selection from among these qualified papers. The best paper award will be presented at the ICSB Conference in June 2008 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Judging Criteria: While a paper may contain theoretical underpinnings, an analysis that links theory to practice and to public policy implications will be the most well-received. Papers will be judged by how well they meet the following criteria:

- The topic of investigation should be important to a significant segment of the women's enterprise community (educators, practitioners, trainers, policy makers, etc.)
- Makes a contribution to better understanding the phenomenon of women's entrepreneurship, and contains a clear description of how practice and/or policy will benefit from the analysis and findings revealed in the study.
- Meets accepted standards with respect to research design, methodology and analytical techniques.
- Is creative or innovative in the theory tested or the analytical approaches taken.
- Contains a well designed set of conclusions/recommendations for the area studied.

Any questions or suggestions concerning this award should be addressed to Julie Weeks, Chair of ICSB's Women's Entrepreneurship Committee, at jweeks@womenable.com or to Teresa Nelson, co-chair of the women's track at the 2008 conference, at teresa.nelson@simmons.edu. Submit abstracts and papers at www.icsb2008.org.