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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ACCION TEXAS WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER  
LAUNCHES THEIR FIRST  
WOMEN'S MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: LEAD. EMPOWER. SUCCEED.**  
*Connect with business mentors and watch your business grow.*

**SAN ANTONIO** - The Accion Women's Business Center – part of Accion Texas Inc., the nation's largest microlender – is excited to announce the application process to recruit 30 business professionals to be a part of the first Women's Mentorship Program: Lead. Empower. Succeed. These thirty individuals will partner with one another - 15 will be recruited as mentors and the other 15 will serve the role as mentees.

Business professionals may take advantage of resources provided by the AWBC Mentorship Program, such as the opportunity to have one-to-one engaging communication with their own personal mentor and attend expert-led monthly business sessions. "We are excited to offer this one-of-a-kind mentorship program, and look forward to its success and continued support from women-owned small business owners in San Antonio", said Martha N. Zurita, director of Accion's Women's Business Center.

The duration of the mentorship program will be six months, beginning in June and concluding in November. Mentees will learn from their mentors and business professionals, but also from one another as they attend the expert-led monthly business discussions.

Criteria for Selection:

Mentees:

- Active business in operations for at least three years and up to five years
- Desire to grow business and leadership skills
- Ability to meet with mentor at least 3 hours per month over a six month period
- Ability to attend the expert-led monthly sessions
- Demonstrated leadership in community professional activities

Mentor:

- Meet with mentees at least 3 hours per month over a six month period



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- Cultivate a mentoring relationship with the mentee
- Have the desire to help mentees grow their business and leadership skills
- Practice active listening and assertiveness with mentee
- Pro-active communication with mentee
- Demonstrate leadership in the community and/or professional activities

AWBC is accepting applications until Friday, May 16, 2014. Participants will be announced the following week and the program will begin June 10, 2014.

For more information and to apply as a [Mentor](#) or [Mentee](#), visit our website at <http://www.acciontexas.org/resources/womens-business-center/> or you can contact the AWBC for an application at 210-226-3664.

#### **About Accion Texas Inc.**

Established in 1994 in San Antonio, Accion Texas Inc.'s financial and business-support services help entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses, stabilize and increase their incomes, create employment and contribute to the economic revitalization of their communities. The Accion Women's Business Center (AWBC), a program of Accion Texas Inc., is dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs, especially women and minorities. The center provides innovative business support services like business seminars, roundtables, and individual consultations to help businesses launch, grow and succeed in our community. The Accion Women's Business Center is funded in part by a cooperative agreement with the US Small Business Administration.

Accion Texas manages the nation's largest microloan portfolio and is committed to providing capital to entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources. Since its inception, Accion has made more than 14,000 loans totaling nearly \$160 million. Accion operates in eight states: Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. For more information, visit [www.acciontexas.org](http://www.acciontexas.org).

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