



**African
Development
Center**
of Minnesota

2016 ADC Business Awards Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Success of Young Entrepreneurs and Growing Businesses Owned by African Immigrants and Refugees Recognized

September 27, 2016 ST. PAUL, Minnesota – The African Development Center of Minnesota proudly announces the recipients of its 2016 Business Awards today at a luncheon at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul. The African Development Center (ADC) is a leader in micro-lending to entrepreneurs and growing small business. Our work in financial literacy, business development and homeownership counselling focuses on Minnesota’s African Community. With the help of dedicated full-time employees, Executive and Finance Committees and Board of Trustees, ADC provides services in 6 languages to communities throughout Minnesota.

ADC is dedicated to the economic empowerment and success of African immigrants. Minnesota is home to over one-hundred thousand African immigrants, many of whom face language, cultural, and religious barriers. ADC actively works to reduce these barriers and create a path for African immigrants to achieve financial success. Since 2004, ADC has provided nearly \$7 million in business finance, trained and counselled thousands of entrepreneurs and businesses owned by African immigrants and refugees and trained and counselled almost 3,000 in financial literacy and homeownership.

Speakers at today’s awards ceremony include Commissioner Shawnterra Hardy, Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development since April 2016 and Mr. Ravi Norman, CEO of THOR Construction, Inc. a general contractor company based in Fridley, MN with a 3-year average annual revenue of approximately \$110 million, making it the state’s largest African American owned business.

The 2016 awardees represent the range of ADC business clients:

- ADC Small Business of the Year - KATAR RIVER RESTAURANT AND BAKERY, LLC, Minneapolis.
 - Began in 2007 as a business idea in an ADC class, this woman owned business has a restaurant and now provides wholesale ethnic foods and breads to grocery stores all over Minnesota that cater to African tastes.

- ADC Employer of the Year - FAMILY CARE TRANSPORTATION, LLC, Minneapolis
 - Started in 2006, this business has more than 12 employees and more than 250 drivers providing non-emergency medical transportation in St. Anthony, St. Cloud, Faribault, Mankato and Willmar.
- ADC Young Entrepreneur(s) of the Year - AMIN GROCERY, LLC, Willmar
 - This convenience store serving the growing African community in Willmar is owned by a 25-year-old entrepreneur.
- ADC Young Entrepreneur(s) of the Year - LIZ VISION BEAUTY SUPPLY, LLC, Champlin
 - A start-up retail venture of a 25-year-old couple this business targets a growing African population in northern Twin Cities suburbs providing hard-to-find products and braiding and weaving services.
- 2016 ADC Staff Pick - ULTIMATE HEALTHCARE INC., Minneapolis
 - In 2012 a former ADC loan officer and community organizer started a business to provide Personal Care services to the elderly and disabled. With more than \$3 million in revenues and 250 clients statewide – this service provider works with a variety of healthcare providers such as BlueCross BlueShield and offers language and culturally proficient care professionals to a diverse clientele bridging the African-American, Caucasian, Hispanic and African communities.

Commemorating ADC's founder and former Executive Director, Hussein Samatar, who lost his battle with Leukemia at age 45 in 2013, we recognize an organization without whose support, the African business community would be hampered.

- Hussein Samatar Community Service Award - LEGALCorps, Minneapolis
 - A non-profit legal services corporation providing clinics and pro bono support to businesses and non-profits in Minnesota.

The awards Luncheon is sponsored by USBank, CenterPoint Energy, WellsFargo, Augsburg College, BMO Harris Bank, Western Bank and MEDA (Metropolitan Economic Development Association).

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Photos and further information available on request and can be found at www.adcminnesota.org

