

Request for Media Coverage

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THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE U. S. STEEL CORPORATION'S THOMAS USHER ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT PROGRAM

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the Thomas J. Usher Entrepreneurial Spirit Program, named for the first Chairman of the Chamber's Presidential Roundtable. Tom Usher is Chairman of Marathon Oil Corporation and former Chairman of U.S. Steel Corporation.

"We are honored to have the US Steel Foundation fund this important initiative. It represents a direct match to the Chamber's mission of continuously providing access and opportunity for African American business owners and professionals in Western Pennsylvania," stated Mrs. Carson Williams, President and CEO of the Chamber.

Mr. Usher was the first Chairman of the African American Chamber's Presidential Roundtable—a position he held for seven years. While serving in that capacity, Mr. Usher was instrumental in helping to galvanize the corporate community in supporting the African American Chamber and its members.

The purpose of this Program will be to assist in funding the entrepreneurial development of those identified businesses with the type of demonstrable entrepreneurial spirit that Tom's work with the Chamber has instilled in its members and in the community. This

spirit is not only important to the future of these businesses, but to the future of the region as well. The emphasis will be on developing businesses that can serve USS and the region at large in their quest to engage more minority firms.

The Chamber hopes that the establishment of this program will provide valuable opportunities for small business owners to place themselves in a more favorable financial and strategic position to take advantage of business opportunities with U.S. Steel Corporation and other large Fortune 500 companies in the Pittsburgh region. Potential recipients of the Thomas Usher Presidential Roundtable Entrepreneurial Spirit Grant Program will be identified and evaluated by a committee consisting of Executive Board Members of the Chamber, and members of local corporations, including US Steel Corporation. Criteria used to judge potential participants include: entrepreneurial endeavor, firm size, and commitment to the continued vitality of the region.

Administration of the Grant is scheduled to begin this fall.