

## MCC ANNOUNCES 2009 IWEC AWARDEES

The MCC IWEC Committee has chosen three women business owners to represent NYC/US at the 2009 IWEC Conference in New Delhi, India to be held the first week in February. These women were chosen for their entrepreneurship and for building a successful business. And, although all of them have already been doing business globally, MCC wishes to help them establish contacts in other parts of the world. Women business owners from India, Africa, Barcelona and Central Asia will also be attending the conference and are seeking to further their business contacts as well.

**We are pleased to announce the 2009 IWEC awardees:**

### **KALPANA PATEL, PRESIDENT & CEO, UNIQUE COMP. INC**

Kalpana Patel is President and Chief Executive Officer of Unique Comp. Inc. UCI is an award winning Information Technology Services Firm located in New York.

Kalpana holds an MBA degree from Adelphi University, Garden city, New York. Over the course of two decades of working in Wall Street and in the Information Technology Industry, Kalpana has “hands on” experience in virtually every aspect of the business including sales, marketing, finance and operations. Because of her extensive background working for large corporate firms as an executive such as Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and MHT, she has carried over the same sound business principals and corporate savvy to her own company.

Ms. Patel has managed to build her organization into one of the top “Minority Woman Owned Small businesses” in the Tri-state area, providing Technology Solutions and consulting services to a large number of agencies within the public sector as well as several corporate 100 companies. Because of her dedication, hard work and strong leadership, in 2005 she proudly received **Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg’s “NYC Small Business Award of Distinction”** as well as being named one of “**Top Owned 50 Asian Minority Businesses**” in New York by **AABDC**, and has been distinguished as one of the top entrepreneurs in the country by **Diversity Business.com**. In 2006 Kalpana received “**Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award**” from **NRCC – DC**, “**Top Woman Business Owner Award**” from **NAWBO LI** and “**Woman Entrepreneur of the Year**” Award from **World Business Forum Inc**. In 2008 **COMTO – MTA** recognized UCI as their “**Small Business of the Year**” and **NY Women Chamber of Commerce** named her as “**Woman of Excellence**”

From the very beginning, Kalpana’s first priority has always been commitment to her clients and by strongly believing in achieving “Excellence through Teamwork”, her firms maxim. Kalpana is also an active Board Member of many non profit organizations and is an incoming president of **NAWBO LI**.

### **RACHEL ALLGOOD, CCO ISOCURVE**

Over the past two decades, Rachel has founded and led two successful marketing and design firms based in New York City. Noted and recognized as a highly adept entrepreneur, she currently holds the position of Chief Creative Officer for Isocurve, the firm she founded in 1996, which specializes in generating effective international marketing strategies and creative solutions for its clients:

BMW, Judith Ripka, Ellen Tracy, Federated Department Stores, IBM, Watson Wyatt, and General Electric, Barron Claiborne, Andy French, and Robert Tardio. She has developed several proprietary products for this industry, including Genji™ and Retail™. Most recently Rachel created, executed, and launched celebrity Rosie O’Donnell’s first online gallery.

### **NANCY JOHNSON, CEO, OPTIMYZE, LLC**

Nancy Johnson has spent over 20 years in the fashion industry driving creative and analytical business development and process improvement. Nancy began her career as a designer/tailor and product developer. She further enhanced her creative knowledge working with design technology/CAD in the architectural interiors and home furnishings market. In response to escalating pressures on businesses in the mid 90’s and a critical need for technology innovation in the fashion industry, Ms. Johnson founded Optimyze. Through Optimyze she provides creative companies such as Burberry, Polo Ralph Lauren and Oakley the strategic business advice and technology tools to operate more efficiently during the entire product development and supply chain process. In addition to managing Optimyze, Nancy is also a partner in the SWIFT® (**Strategic Women In Fashion Today**) Consortium-

An active business advocate Nancy devotes time to philanthropy and mentoring small business owners around the world through non-profit affiliations. She sits on the Board of the Directors of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, and Co-chairs the MCC Global Business Committee. .

**Congratulations to all three awardees!**