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Prairie Quest's Stacey Smith to Attend Tuck-WBENC Program

Fort Wayne, IN – Prairie Quest CEO Stacey Smith has been selected to attend the prestigious Tuck-WBENC Executive Program at Dartmouth College, Palisades, NY in fall 2010. The program, presented by IBM, is an exclusive offering to only 50 participants nationwide and is offered to assist Women Business Owners to assess, improve and grow their companies. This advanced program will explore organic growth, strategic alliances, and acquisitions as three alternatives for growing businesses to scale.

Tuck is the nation's oldest graduate school of business and renowned for the quality of its teaching and the degree to which it fosters collaborative learning, inclusion, and community. It is designed to make a big difference in how owners think about and operate their businesses. Collaborative learning groups apply the tools they have learned to assess and improve their businesses, using the same diagnostic and strategy-implementation approaches that external consultants would use. The faculty includes some of Tuck's best teachers—such as Kathleen McGahran and Len Greenhalgh—all of whom are highly attuned to the needs of high-potential diverse businesses.

Prairie Quest is an award-winning professional services firm with an impressive track record of public and private sector contracts. Service offerings include Project Management, Acquisition Management, Advisory & Assistance Services, Business Process Analysis and Technology Services. They enable their clients to perform at the highest levels while maintaining the flexible, collaborative, and driven focus that a small business lends. Their market strategies, like their customers, are unique. They have a proven capture management methodology that documents and provides measured results, ensuring they know who our customers are and understand their needs. Prairie Quest's adept team has helped realize over \$300 million in savings for their clients and analyzed more than 10,000+ processes to convert their clients to highly effective, cost-conscious organizations.

Prairie Quest is a certified Woman Owned Business and member of WBENC. PQC founder Stacey Smith is a board member to the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau and the Indianapolis chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners. She is also a founding member of the Indiana Women Business Owners PAC. A strong believer in the power of small business and a personal commitment to share her knowledge with other business owners,

she continues to grow a strong network of mentors and partners to learn from and develop her business practice. "I understand that learning to be a wise business owner never ends and ultimately will be the difference between those that rise above the current economy and those that don't," said Smith. Prairie Quest was recently recognized by Inc Magazine as one of its 2010 500/5000 Fastest Growing Companies as well as the 2010 Indiana Companies to Watch.

The Tuck-WBENC Executive Program was initiated in 2003 to offer an education program specifically for women-owned businesses that are beyond the start up phase. It assists WBEs in making strategic business decisions, optimize core business processes, ensure adequate cash flows and staffing, and manage business relationships.

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