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Women Adapting to Recovering Economy

Bozeman, MT – After hosting more than 100 businesswomen in Big Sky a month ago, the Women’s Business Center and Small Business Administration have agreed to organize a follow up luncheon and workshop in 2011.

“So many participants encouraged us to make this conference an annual gathering, and we are committed to responding to their needs with the resources we have available,” said Amanda Schultz, Director of the Montana Women in Business Center. “We will host a single day workshop next spring and look forward to bringing everyone together again in 2012 for our biennial conference.

The Montana Women in Business Conference: Adapting and Being Nimble in a Recovering Economy, brought attendees from the state’s urban and rural communities, giving them resources to enhance their business operations, quality of service or products, and distribution.

“Personally, I am moving forward with a new business plan using my skills from my ‘previous life’ as a CPA along with utilizing many of the services I discovered during the conference,” said Kay Del Shelton, owner of The Myrtle Leaf All Natural Skin Care in Billings.

The Conference keynote speaker, Nan Gardetto, began producing and selling a family-recipe snack mix as a young adult, leading to a multi-million dollar business that began in her father’s bread bakery. Her story, dotted with the loss of loved-ones and the internal conflict of selling her business, inspired attendees to keep going, especially when times get tough.

Nan is now the owner of another multi-million dollar company, Baptista’s Bakery, and despite a tornado causing significant damage to her property only days before the Conference, Nan kept her speaking commitment.

“As intelligent achievers, the speakers showed me the importance of intuition and the art of knowing who you are and being confident with that knowledge,” Kay Del said.

The Montana WBC is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. For more on the conference, visit montanawbc.org.