



**Picture That**  
LLC

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## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE***

### **VALERIE A. COOPER RECOGNIZED FOR HELPING OTHERS** ***Local Business Owner Wins 2011 GNEMSDC MBE Empowerment Award***

**Stamford, CT**—Stamford native and business owner, **Valerie A. Cooper** recently received the 2011 MBE Empowerment Award from the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC) at the organization's Annual Awards Gala held at the Aqua Turf Country Club in Plantsville, CT. Ms. Cooper is President of **Picture That LLC**, the Stamford-based fine arts consulting firm she established in 2002 and **Picture That LLC** is a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE). Ms. Cooper was recognized for supporting other MBE firms by doing business with them and consequently, helping them develop other business opportunities. Since gaining certification for her company, she has employed a variety of other minority-owned businesses to support her business and clients.

"I am delighted and honored to have been nominated by an MBE in our Council," states Cooper. "I am most grateful for the opportunity to work with MBEs as we build our businesses together. A big part of my mission is to engage other MBEs as much as possible. Over 80% of the vendors we use are MBEs because I realize the importance of giving minority business "a chance"—the same way that, over the years, my client, Thompson Hospitality—a much larger MBE firm, opted to use the services that **Picture That** offers. Their choice to do so has helped my company to grow. They set the example for me and I believe it is my responsibility to, in turn, follow their lead with the hope that I, too, can impact and empower other MBEs." Affiliated with the GNEMSDC since 2003, Cooper was nominated by Tricia Farin, President of Jantris Marketing Services LLC, a full-service marketing advisory firm that provides web development and graphic design services to **Picture That LLC**. "We have been a vendor of **Picture That** since 2008 and have witnessed, firsthand, Valerie's commitment to engage other MBEs, to provide most of the services she needs. Her dedication to helping others extends to her readiness to introduce new clients and business opportunities to us. Valerie truly 'walks the talk', which is exactly the reason I nominated her."

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### **About VALERIE COOPER and Picture That LLC:**

Valerie is the President of **Picture That LLC** a fine art consulting firm. Formed in 2002, **Picture That** supplies fine art, curates exhibitions, and provides art advisory and appraisal services to organizations worldwide. Her firm's clients have included American Express, Boehringer-Ingelheim, CARTUS, Credit Suisse, DIAGEO, Day Pitney LLP, Deloitte, GE, Goldman Sachs, IBM, Northeast Utilities, Pitney Bowes, Thompson Hospitality, Travelers, UBS, Yale University Health Systems and numerous private individuals. **Picture That LLC** is a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) by the Greater New England Supplier Development Council and a certified woman-owned business by the State of Connecticut.

Valerie is on the board of Norwalk Community College Foundation and holds the office of Secretary. She was recently named 2010 "Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Year" by the National Association of Female Executives (NAFE). **Picture That LLC** was the recipient of the 2008 NMSDC National Supplier of the Year Award - Northern Region, a designation given to companies that exceed expectations in service, delivery, product quality and overall value.

Valerie's education includes a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University Business School, an Appraisal Studies in Fine and Decorative Arts Certificate from New York University, and a Bachelor of Science from Morgan State University. She is also an Associate of the Appraisers Association of America (AAA).

### **About the GNEMSDC:**

The **Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council** is a 37-year old, not-for-profit business membership organization with a mission to develop business relationships between corporate members and certified MBEs.

In 2010, GNEMSDC-certified MBEs had combined sales of over \$2.5 billion. The GNEMSDC provides services in all six New England States and is an affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council.