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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROSPERA BUSINESS NETWORK OPENS MONTANA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER IN BOZEMAN

Bozeman, MT – Prospera Business Network announces the opening of the new Montana Women's Business Center in Bozeman. This program is designed to provide counseling, comprehensive training, networking and mentoring services to women entrepreneurs. Additionally the Women's Business Center will make a special effort to provide services to women that are economically and socially disadvantaged. The Women's Business Center is partially funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"This new business assistance program will be a great resource for Montana's women in business," said SBA Montana District Director, Michelle Johnston. "The training and counseling provided by the Women's Business Center fills a gap in the existing business assistance resources available in Montana. We are delighted to see a Women's Business Center established in Montana," continued Johnston.

The Montana Women's Business Center is part of a network of more than one hundred centers nationwide. One goal is to ultimately reach statewide with training programs and satellite assistance centers. In February 2010, the first of these sub-centers will be located at Career Transitions in Belgrade.

"The Women's Business Center has gotten off to a great start," said Prospera's Executive Director, Stuart Leidner. "We are excited to have these entrepreneurial services available to Montana women and find it to be a great resource during a recovering economy," continued Leidner.

The Montana Women's Business Center is a SBA resource partner to SCORE and the Small Business Development Center. It is designed to compliment and fill the gaps of the other SBA programs.

The Women's Business Center will be located at the Prospera offices in downtown Bozeman. For additional information on the Montana Women's Business Center, contact Amanda Shultz, Montana Women's Business Center Director, at 406.587.3113.

ABOUT PROSPERA BUSINESS NETWORK

Prospera Business Network is a private, non-profit, member-supported economic development organization in southwestern Montana. Originally established in 1985 as the Gallatin Development Corporation, Prospera plays a leading role in economic development serving a region that is one of the fastest growing economic areas in the northern Rocky Mountains. Prospera is dedicated to encouraging and supporting business expansion, retention and relocation by providing access to business consulting, financing, professional

development and economic research. For more information, visit ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org or call (406) 587-3113.

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