



Initiative for a Competitive Inner City
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**ROXBURY TECHNOLOGY NAMED TOP MINORITY- AND
WOMAN-OWNED COMPANY ON 2008 INNER CITY 100 LIST**

CEO Beth Williams Wins Dual Honor at Inner City 100 Celebration

Boston, MA (May 1, 2008) -- The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC), a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote economic prosperity in America's inner cities, and *Inc.* Magazine today announced that Boston-based Roxbury Technology is the winner of both Top Minority-Owned and Top Woman-Owned Company of the Year on the 2008 Inner City 100, an annual list that ranks and publicizes the fastest growing inner city businesses nationwide.

In 2003, Beth Williams, chief executive officer of Roxbury Technology, began leading the company in place of her late father who founded the company less than a decade earlier. Ms. Williams accepted the honor at the Inner City 100 Awards Dinner, held on May 1st at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Ranked number two on the overall 2008 list, Roxbury Technology re-manufactures laser printer cartridges and sells them to end users through office supply retail outlets. The company has 39 employees and reported 2006 revenue of \$11.9 million.

“By celebrating minority-owned and woman-owned businesses, we are not only acknowledging the extraordinary achievements of individual entrepreneurs, we are also sending a message of inspiration and inclusiveness,” said David Latimore, president and chief executive officer of the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, which publishes the Inner City 100 list. “Beth Williams,

an African-American woman, has demonstrated that racial and gender barriers can be overcome and tackled in a spectacular fashion.”

Roxbury Technology’s success is also a testament to Boston’s business and civic leaders who recognize the importance and benefits of networking. Archie Williams, Beth’s father, met Tom Stemberg, founder of Staples, Inc., the office supply company, in 1999 at a city-sponsored golf tournament at Boston’s Franklin Park golf course. The result of that meeting was an agreement that Roxbury Technology would supply recycled laser printer cartridges to Staples’ retail stores.

Staples has been a long-time advocate for inner cities and minority business ownership. Through Staples Foundation for Learning, the private charitable arm of the company, the company has been a key program supporter of ICIC and the Inner City 100 for the past five years.

“Staples recognizes the importance of broad access to business opportunities in inner city communities and commends ICIC and the Inner City 100 on their tenth anniversary of promoting the fastest growing minority-owned businesses within these communities,” said Ron Sargent, president of Staples Foundation for Learning and chairman and chief executive officer of Staples, Inc. “It is particularly gratifying to see Roxbury Technology, one of our valued business partners, excel even among the truly impressive companies on the Inner City 100 list.”

Thirty-two percent of the companies on the 2008 Inner City 100 list are minority owned, compared to only three percent of all businesses nationally with annual sales more than \$1 million. Woman-owned companies are equally well represented on the Inner City 100 list.

Twenty-six percent of 2008 Inner City 100 companies are woman-owned, marking an all-time high in the 10-year history of the list. Nationally, only two percent of companies with revenues more than \$1 million are woman-owned.

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About the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) is a national not-for-profit organization founded in 1994 by Harvard Business School professor Michael E. Porter. ICIC’s mission is to promote economic prosperity in America’s inner cities through private sector engagement that leads to jobs, income and wealth creation for local residents. ICIC brings together business and civic leaders to drive innovation and action, transform thinking and accelerate inner city business growth and investment.

About Staples Foundation for Learning

The mission of Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc. is to teach, train and inspire. Founded in 2002, the foundation has contributed more than \$12 million to national and local charities that provide educational opportunities and job skills for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Staples Foundation for Learning has also developed lasting relationships with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Earth Force, Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. In addition, Staples Foundation for Learning supports Ashoka, an organization that develops and supports social entrepreneurs around the world, in eight countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and the United States. For more information about the foundation or how to apply for a grant, please visit www.staplesfoundation.org.