

# Wendy Hanson, business coach and president of Corley Hanson Associates, is the Women in Business Champion of the Year

Wendy Hanson is an experienced business coach and team builder, and has been a leader in special education. During her years in special education, Hanson started a janitorial services company, a catering business, an interior landscaping company, and a potpourri company that were staffed by persons with disabilities. She also created a ceramics program where students created wedding favors that were sold nationally. Wendy continues to be involved in entrepreneurial businesses that provide individuals with equal access to the job market and enables them to maximize their strengths. She has used her business and coaching skills to help young women create a vision for their business.

In 1999, Wendy and her business partner, Will Corley, founded Corley Hanson Associates, which provides a unique blend of coaching, training, and consulting. Two years later, Wendy and Will moved to Providence. The Corley Hanson Associates company slogan, "Making Your Business a Team Sport," works with companies and helps people build teams, build leadership, and helps them complete projects. Hanson believes that when people are able to leverage their strengths, acknowledge them, and use them as part of moving ahead, they will be much more successful.

From September 2002 through June 2003 Wendy worked with the Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE) to initiate the GROW (Get Right On With It) Program in Providence. The program features monthly meetings for women who have been in business for three or more years. Their first group included nine women representing restaurants, travel, graphic design, bakeries, trainers/consultants and architectural designers. The group met to discuss business problems and find solutions. They also brought in guest speakers, which proved to be very successful.

Wendy taught management classes at Mount Wachusett



**Wendy Hanson, left, discusses a business idea during a counseling session at the Center for Women & Enterprise.**

Management Center in Massachusetts. It is there that she began working with her first corporate clients.

In Rhode Island, Corley Hanson Associates developed a relationship with the Rhode Island Technology Council (RITEC) and worked with their board of directors and staff to create team building. Her company has grown by working with individuals and companies on collaboration, communication and cooperation.

In May 2002, Wendy became a SCORE counselor and created a workshop "Creating a Vision for Your Business." Wendy was one of the founding members of Providence Business

Networking International (BNI). Through BNI she has made a lot of contacts around the state and has been able to assist some of her SCORE clients to develop their marketing plans. Wendy enjoys having long-term relationships with her clients so she can give them support and feedback. She is dedicated to serving women entrepreneurs with her boundless energy and enthusiasm.

Wendy Hanson was born in New York City. She graduated from Fitchburg State College with a degree in Special Education. She received her Master's Degree in Organization and Management from Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire. She

was the Director of Special Education for Amesbury Public Schools and after a few years became the Executive Director for the Association for Retarded Citizens in Fitchburg, Mass.

In 1998, she decided to venture outside Human Services and became a Certified Personal Professional Coach. In the summer months she ran a program with school age students called, "Flowers for Summer," where companies would buy bud vases which would be put together by the students.

For her demonstrated commitment to advocacy on behalf of women entrepreneurs, the U.S. Small Business Administration is honored to present Wendy Hanson, President of Corley Hanson Associates, with the Women in Business Champion of the Year Award.

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