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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS GREATER DETROIT CHAPTER

vision

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2005 Top 10



WARRIOR AWARD

A woman business owner who has persevered through business loss and currently owns a successful business.

Vickie Lewis, VMX International & CURVES

Vickie founded VMX International in 2001 after being downsized from an account-manager position. She was determined to control her own future, take her professional contacts and work experience and create a job for herself. VMX is an environmental-engineering consulting firm headquartered in Detroit that works with businesses in the US, Canada and Mexico properly dispose of items ranging from office paper to hazardous materials. In her first year of business she generated \$1 million in revenue and garnered clients that included Waste Management and each of the Big Three Automakers. Teaming with two investors and borrowing from her retirement fund, she was able to make a profit in the first year by doing the work herself and subcontracting out to others until she could hire employees directly. Vickie's "other" business is a CURVES fitness franchise located in Northwest Detroit. Just weeks after opening the facility she sustained a major business loss with the tragedy of an armed robbery. In spite of nay-sayers who suggested that she give up and the stigma associated with such an occurrence, she dismissed her personal fears and chose to remain in business. Concerned primarily about the safety of others she consulted top security experts and developed and implemented security measures to make her staff and clients feel safe and secure. Today her membership has grown beyond all expectations.

