

## **MXOTECHS' JOANNA SOBRAN GRADUATES FROM INAUGURAL GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000 SMALL BUSINESSES**

CHICAGO, June 2012 – **MXOtech's** owner and President **Joanna Sobran** has graduated from the inaugural Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program. Funded by Goldman Sachs and The Goldman Sachs Foundation, 10,000 Small Businesses is a \$500 million investment to help small businesses in the United States create jobs and economic growth by providing entrepreneurs with a practical business education, access to capital and business support services.



Investor Warren Buffett, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein and Chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago Cheryl Hyman pose with Joanna Sobran at the graduation ceremony.

Joanna Sobran is one of 37 Chicago small business owners recognized by investor Warren Buffett, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein and Mayor Rahm Emanuel at the graduation event held on June 12th. For the past 20 weeks, through the City Colleges of Chicago's Harold Washington campus, Joanna and her peers studied accounting, human resources, negotiation and marketing, among other topics. The program also included one-on-one business consultation and advice from Goldman Sachs professionals.

Joanna says “Understanding the financials better and having a clear vision has been instrumental in growing our business. This has already changed many aspects of our business and given us focus on services that are more profitable. The Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses* program is an amazing opportunity to help a small and even mid-size business owner realize focus and vision for their business.”

Joanna’s passion for and expertise in technology and providing opportunities for creative IT professionals spurred her to found MXOtech in 2006. As CEO and president, Joanna oversees the business strategy, sales and operations of MXOtech, which serves a wide range of industries. MXOtech specializes in IT consulting, developing custom applications and portals that are dynamic extensions of its clients’ businesses. Joanna has a Managed Services division that supports small and medium sized businesses by managing and enhancing their technology needs. Joanna’s team of 15 employees services businesses in a varying range of sizes, from small to Fortune 1000.

Chicago is one of seven locations for 10,000 Small Businesses in the United States. In Chicago, City Colleges of Chicago is leading the business and management education program with the support of local partners including the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Urban League, IFF, the Women’s Business Development Center, the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. These partners not only recruit small business owners from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods to apply to the program, but they also provide participants with best-in-class technical assistance and clinics. The program launched in Chicago in September 2011, committing \$25 million for small business loans, business education and grants for supporting community partners.