



For More Information:

Andrea Pasquine – (609) 633-2474

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SDA GRADUATES 16 SMALL, MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES FROM ITS 2011 CONTRACTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

TRENTON – The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) is pleased to announce that 16 small, minority and women business enterprises throughout the State of New Jersey have successfully completed the SDA sponsored 2011 SMWBE Contractor Training Program.

The SMWBE Contractor Training Program culminated with a Graduation Ceremony and Networking Event held at the SDA Trenton location on Wednesday, October 12. The Graduation and Networking Event gave the 16 graduating firms an opportunity to network with general contractors who have knowledge and experience working on NJSDA projects.

The SMWBE Contractor Training Program is designed to enable the small, minority and women owned business enterprises in New Jersey to gain valuable knowledge on how to do business with the SDA and provide these firms with the tools necessary to successfully compete for SDA construction projects. Each participating firm completed nine weeks of seminars taught by SDA personnel and is taking the steps necessary to become prequalified with the Authority.

The training program began on August 2 with an orientation session and commenced weekly for nine weeks at SDA's Trenton location with a simulcast to the Newark location. The sessions were taught utilizing SDA staff with expertise in a variety of areas. Training sessions covered such topics as:

- How to Do Business With the SDA
- Understand the Bid Process
- Bid Package Preparation
- Construction Cost Estimating
- Project Management and Scheduling
- Developing a Project Budget
- Construction Accounting
- SDA Construction Paperwork
- Outreach and Marketing Construction Services.

“The SDA is committed to the growth and success of small businesses in New Jersey,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “Our goal with the SWMBE Contractor Training Program is to provide support and the knowledge necessary so that small, minority and women owned business enterprises can successfully bid on school construction projects with the SDA.”

For more information about the SWMBE Contractor Training Program and other small business programs, visit <http://www.njsda.gov/business/Compliance/SBE.html>.

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