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CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION OFFERS TRAINING PROGRAM TO ASSIST SMALL, MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

TRENTON – Committed to ensuring success of the state’s small businesses, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) today began a free, nine-week Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (SMWBE) Contractor Training Program designed to provide these firms with valuable knowledge and tools to successfully compete for work on future SDA construction projects. Twenty-six companies enrolled to participate in the 2014 program at locations in both Trenton and Newark.

“This SMWBE Contractor Training Program builds upon the commitment of the Christie Administration to help the backbone of New Jersey’s economy succeed in this state,” said SDA CEO Charles B. McKenna. “We are proud to partner with the state’s small, minority and women-owned businesses and to help them prosper.”

Today’s launch of the 2014 training program began with an orientation and an opportunity to meet the SDA Staff and industry professionals who will be responsible for leading the instructional sessions. The training will continue with nine weeks of classes to be held Tuesdays in Trenton and Wednesdays in Newark with topics including:

- How to Do Business with the SDA
- Department of Property Management and Construction (DPMC) and Bonding
- The Bid Process
- Contract Law
- Basics of Estimating
- Basics of Project Scheduling
- Basics of Project Budgeting
- Basics of Accounting
- Outreach and Marketing Construction Services

This is the fourth program offering of classes given by the Schools Development Authority since 2011. Previous graduates of the program have become prequalified with the State to do business, have obtained government contracts and/or increased their professional network. Participating firms have consistently expressed overwhelming satisfaction with the program and its ability to help them grow and improve their businesses.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at more than \$2 billion – including the Capital Project Portfolio (approximately \$1.5 billion), emergent projects (\$100 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$450 million state share).

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