

# OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NEWS

SPRING 2019

## CAPACITY BUILDING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

The Washington State Department of Transportation's Mentor Protégé Program is being re-launched with Sound Transit as the Capacity Building Mentorship Program. The program will be administered by the Minority Business Development Agency - Tacoma Business Center.

The new Capacity Building Mentorship Program will include firms already enrolled in WSDOT's Mentor Protégé Program. We have received inquiries from many interested parties as we are preparing for our third cohort. This event is for anyone interested in learning how it will be different under new administration. To learn more about the new program and its parameters, mark your calendars for the following event:

April 12, 2019

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Tukwila Community Center, Banquet Hall

12424 42nd Avenue South

Tukwila Washington 98168

## CAPACITY BUILDING MENTORSHIP LOAN PROGRAM

Verity Credit Union, BECU and Harborstone Credit Union have made a total of \$750,000 in loans available in support of Washington's diverse business community. Business Impact NW will administer the loans to firms participating in the Capacity Building Mentorship Program. Program participants may contact:

Christopher Stone

Business Impact NW

1437 S. Jackson Seattle, WA 98144

206-324-4330 ext. 105

[christophers@businessimpactnw.org](mailto:christophers@businessimpactnw.org) or visit

<https://businessimpactnw.org/services/loans/>

Those interested in participating in this program are encouraged to attend the Mentor Capacity Launch event on April 12 where Business Impact NW will be available to discuss the loans in more detail.



## OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Office of Equal Opportunity is responsible for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, Minority & Women's Business Enterprise, Title VI, Equal Employment Opportunity, American with Disabilities and the On-the-Job Training Support Services Programs. Our goal is to ensure that WSDOT is an organization that is free from discrimination in all program areas and promotes equity and equality during every facet of our day-to-day business activities.

## PRE-APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE & MEETING

The PASS Program provides funding and support for training for women, minorities, and other socially and economically disadvantaged individuals desiring training and careers in the highway construction industry. As of July 2018, there have been over 500 PASS Program participants:

### Race and ethnic participation:

- African American 15.8%
- Hispanic 23.9%
- Caucasian 33.8%
- Native American 8.3%
- Asian American 6.4%
- Alaskan Native 1.1%
- Pacific Islander 4.7%
- Other 6.6%

### Gender participation:

71% male and 29% female

89% overall program graduation rate

### PASS Grant

The next grant application cycle for 2019-21 will begin spring 2019. Register on Washington's Electronic Business Solution (WEBS) for information on this opportunity: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/webs/>. WSDOT PASS Program staff will host a series of public meetings to provide opportunities to learn about the upcoming PASS Program Proposal Submission process and time line in person at the following locations:

#### YAKIMA

April 3, 2019

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

South Central Region HQ

2809 Rudkin Road

Union Gap, WA 98903

#### SEATTLE

April 8, 2019

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

South Seattle College/

Georgetown Campus

6737 Corson Avenue South

Seattle, WA 98108

#### SPOKANE

April 11, 2019

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

WSDOT Eastern

Region HQ

2714 N. Mayfair Street,

Spokane, WA 99207

## FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION DISPARITY STUDY UPDATE

In January 2018, WSDOT, on behalf of the FAA, began conducting a Disparity Study for its DBE Program. Colette Holt & Associates (CHA) is the consultant performing the study. The Study team is in the final stages of contacting regional airports and prime firms, in order to complete the collection of required documentation and data. This information is critical to developing an accurate analysis of the utilization of DBEs on FAA projects. If you have any questions, contact Colette Holt & Associates at [wsdot-faa-study@mwbelaw.com](mailto:wsdot-faa-study@mwbelaw.com) or call (855) 692-3529.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:** This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equal Opportunity at [wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov) or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

**Title VI Notice to Public:** It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7090.