

By Angela Soyemi

NewsLink is the vital source of relevant news and information about Corporate Supplier Diversity and minority business development within the State of Georgia.



GMSDC, The Resource for Linking Committed Corporations and Progressive Minority Suppliers

The mission of GMSDC is to foster and expand mutually beneficial economic opportunities between certified minority enterprises and corporations within the state of Georgia. Join us today and take your business to the next level.

Visit www.gmsdc.org or call 404.589.4929 for more information.

GMSDC is a not-for-profit organization that links corporate America and minority-owned enterprises in long-term business partnerships. The Council trains, educates, and sensitizes corporations about the economic benefits of using certified minority businesses, and works to better equip certified minority businesses to compete for contracts. GMSDC is a regional affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

EVENTS

ONGOING

1st Tuesdays. Pre-Certification Briefing
Learn more about membership benefits

www.gmsdc.org for event dates and details.

GMSDC Announces New Regional and Council Chairpersons

The Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council welcomes three top business leaders in their role as Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee chairpersons: regional MBEIC chairperson Rachael Humphrey, Mail Centers Plus; local MBEIC chairperson Pat Lottier, *Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine*; and MBEIC vice chairperson Adam Walker, Homestead Settlement Inc. During their 2008-2010 term, they will aggressively work to increase minority business participation in GMSDC's programs and services.

Capacity Building and Economic Development Drive "Industry Groups" Goals

For minority businesses within the council, creating alliances with peers is a core strategy for building capacity and creating wealth. Participation in GMSDC "Industry Groups" — a place where MBE businesses share a common method of generating profits — enables them to address corporations' strategic sourcing and supply chain needs. For example, as corporations use suppliers to fulfill large-scale contract needs, opportunities for smaller business owners will continue to be threatened. Industry Groups provide a viable forum where minority

businesses can answer the call of corporate America. Five key Industry Groups drive millions of dollars in annual business transactions within the Council. These sectors include information technology, professional services, staffing, real estate and facilities services, and transportation and logistics. These distinct industry groups help to build synergy among minority businesses, where they can openly share best practices and combine resources, time and talent to compete and capture large corporate or government contracts.

Industry Group Chairs, 2008-2010

GMSDC named new Industry Group leaders for the 2008-2010 term: Sid Ahuja, CEO, Open Systems Inc.; John Wilkerson, president, Bellwether Logistics Services LLC; and Leslie McNeal, president, McNeal Professional Services Inc. They will work in conjunction to fulfill the mission and goals of the MBEIC.

Information Technology

Open Systems Inc., provides technical consulting, professional staffing, and Web-based business process management products and solutions that enable organizations to adapt to change.

Real Estate and Facilities Services

Courseault Commercial Inc. is a general contractor for commercial buildings and spaces of all types, and continues to serve clients with on-going maintenance of their space. Additionally, the company offers moving and complete furniture installation services.

Transportation and Logistics

Ferris Carter, Georgia Elite Transport, is an access-based transportation company, providing local and long-distance freight movement and warehousing services.

Professional Services

Bellwether Services is a Lean Six Sigma consulting and training firm, and provides global supply chain consulting and quality audit. The firm is organized into three distinct operating units: Lean Six Sigma Training, Business Process Improvement and International Supply Chain Operations.

Staffing

McNeal Professional Services Inc. is an Atlanta-based wireless engineering and technical staffing company. Its senior executive team has more than 50 years collective experience. McNeal Professional Services' staff has the experience and the expertise to understand and ensure that clients' business needs are met in a timely fashion while employing a budget-conscious approach.

Why Should I Get Certified?

Are you interested in doing business with Georgia's *Fortune* 1000 companies? "MBEs can benefit from the many opportunities offered through GMSDC certification services, corporate networking, educational programs and other minority business development programs," says Lissa Owens, GMSDC Board Chair, Georgia-Pacific LLC. The mission of GMSDC is to foster and expand mutually beneficial economic opportunities between certified minority enterprises and corporations within the State of Georgia. Join us today and take your business to the next level.

For more information on minority certification or corporate membership, visit www.gmsdc.org or call 404.589.4929.

Welcome New Corporate Members

Alcan Corporation
CheckFree Corporation
Greenberg Traurig
Zoo Atlanta