

Learn How to Do Business with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC)

Our nation's capital, Washington, DC is a treasure trove of higher education, with many notable colleges and universities domiciled there. One of its best, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), founded as a school for "colored girls" by Mytrilla Miner in 1951, is a shining example of diversity, inclusion, and multi-culturalism.

On Wednesday, May 29, 2019, UDC marked another milestone with its first Contractors' Outreach held in its Platinum LEED Certified Student Center on its sprawling Van Ness campus. About 300 individuals attended from various professional, design, maintenance, and building trade disciplines. The purpose of the event was to engage more General Contractors, local Certified Business Enterprises (CBE), and Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) in the massive amount of new, upcoming building and renovation opportunities available at UDC.

The program commenced with words of wisdom and university overview from Troy Lemaile-Stovall, UDC's Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Lemaile-Stovall outlined the impact UDC has on Washington, DC and its immediate surrounding communities. He also informed the audience of the \$720 million upgrade the university wants to complete with locally sourced general contractors, trades, designers and suppliers.

Up next was DC Water's Korey Gray, Director of Enterprise Programs. Mr. Gray provided an overview of DC Water's planned multi-billion-dollar upgrades. Following Mr. Gray, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)'s Michelle McKiver, Supplier Diversity Outreach Specialist, provided updates on the \$600 million-dollar upgrades at Dulles International and Reagan National Airports. Both speakers welcomed all CBEs, MBEs, and local businesses to register with their respective firms to take advantage of their upcoming projects.

The next speaker, Melissa A. Resil, Business Certification Manager at the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD), stressed the importance of being CBE certified in the District. She indicated that billions of dollars in annual opportunities are available to CBE certified firms.

After Ms. Resil, Anika Holmes, Associate Dean for Workforce Development, University of the District of Columbia-Community College (UDC-CC) provided details about how UDC-CC can provide and prepare skilled labor for construction and public utility companies, like PEPCO, an Exelon Company, which has hired graduates from UDC-CC's workforce development program. Ms. Holmes extended an invitation for small businesses looking for trained labor, or training for their existing staff, to contact her and her team.

Next, Erik L. Thompson, UDC's Vice President for Capital Assets and Real Estate Services, provided an overview of UDC's future acquisition plans to improve student services and amenities.

Finally, Timothy Millner, UDC's Director of Capital Planning and Construction, provided a detailed outline of UDC's recent past, current, and future projects, including demolition, remodeling, and new construction of all campus buildings. Since the campus was designed and constructed in the 1970s, many of the buildings will undergo roof and MEP projects.

Beverly Thomas, President of Regional Contracting Services, LLC, a Washington, DC based business, attended the event and was pleased. She remarked, "DC is bustling with many construction opportunities and its delightful that UDC's leadership is reaching out to local CBEs. I look forward to my firm expressing interest in several of their upcoming opportunities."

Md. Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA) president, Wayne R. Frazier, Sr., served as the program's Master of Ceremonies and provided the following comment, "UDC's mission of inclusiveness during their campus upgrades is a major plus. I applaud their efforts to bring in culturally diverse businesses for their campus-wide projects."

Keep your eye on MWMCA's weekly e-newsletter for UDC's upcoming procurement opportunities.

For a list of the event contacts, [please select here](#).