

February 2025

"Advancing Excellence, Building Diverse Legacies Together"



Your monthly news & updates

Four Pillars of the MPMSDC
Certify~~Connect~~Develop~~Advocate

[Visit our Website](#)

What does the Mountain Plains MSDC do?

The Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council (**MPMSDC**) provides solutions for corporations that want to partner with the Council to leverage talent, capabilities, and markets that minority suppliers represent. The MPMSDC certifies minority suppliers.

We certify minority suppliers so that Corporate America can maximize and measure the impact of minority suppliers have on communities of color and ethnicity.

[Mountain Plains MSDC](#)

Vision of the Mountain Plains MSDC

The Vision of the MPMSDC is to be the bridge to help corporations create wealth within the minority business community by connecting them to capable and qualified MBEs for contracting opportunities.



Belinda Hooks
Mountain Plains MSDC
Executive Vice President

Executive Vice President's Corner

Get Connected.
Stay Connected.
Be Connected!



Adobe Stock | #202897433

♥ Greetings and Welcome to February ♥

Hello MBEs, Corporate Members, and Strategic Partners!

The Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (MBEIC) has developed a comprehensive 2025 Engagement Plan aimed at equipping MBEs with the resources, insights, and connections needed to thrive in an evolving business landscape. This plan includes a series of educational programs, industry discussions, and strategic networking opportunities designed to help diverse businesses navigate challenges and seize new opportunities. From expert-led webinars to in-person forums, the MBEIC is committed to fostering growth and sustainability for MBEs. Stay updated on upcoming events by visiting our [Calendar of Events page](#) on our website and plan ahead for 2025!

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to our shared mission.

Warm regards,

Belinda Hooks
Mountain Plains MSDC Executive Vice President

**2025 Programming & Events from the
Mountain Plains Council**

Stay informed about the latest events and engagements organized by the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). If you're eager to expand your network, gain valuable insights, and connect with industry leaders, look no further!

To discover a diverse range of upcoming events and to secure your spot, we invite you to click on the NMSDC Events Calendar. This invaluable resource is your gateway to a world of professional growth, innovation, and collaboration within the NMSDC community.



**Stay Connected with
the National Council!**

**There are many
events to attend each
month:**

[Events Calendar](#)

**Stay informed on what our strategic partners and friends of
the MPMSDC are doing!**

**COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS
from our STRATEGIC PARTNERS &
CORPORATE MEMBERS**

**(Click on the logo/flyer below for
more information)**

In today's unpredictable business climate, most great business owners have succeeded because of a mentor; someone who believed in their potential and helped them navigate the complex world of entrepreneurship. This rings especially true for the owners of small, diverse businesses, who often face many barriers to success.

Our latest edition of **Together By Design** highlights two companies that have benefited from our [Accelerate mentorship program](#), a joint venture with Evergy and Ralph G. Moore & Associates. Read about our Accelerate graduates and see how mentorship is making an impact.



[CLICK HERE TO READ FULL BURNS & McDONNELL NEWSLETTER](#)



****BID OPPORTUNITY****
BID OPPORTUNITYBID OPPORTUNITY****
BID OPPORTUNITY**

Exciting News from Hickman Mills C-1 School District!

We are thrilled to announce that Hickman Mills C-1 School District is seeking proposals for a variety of exciting projects and initiatives. This is your chance to collaborate with us and make a meaningful impact on our school community.

Stay tuned and keep checking back regularly to discover the latest opportunities. Don't miss out on the chance to be part of something amazing!

Bid Webpage



Startups + Industry
Innovate With NREL

We serve our private and public funding partners by leveraging the capabilities at NREL and activating our network of startups, investors, incubators, foundations, and industry partners.

[Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center | NREL](#)

[Events | Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center | NREL](#)

POWERED BY



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Empower to Grow Program

Free Training and Assistance

Federally focused training by FedMap

Explore our program for government contractors! Enjoy no-cost access to personalized 1-to-1 training, weekly training sessions, an extensive online course catalog, free tools and templates, and a vibrant networking community.

Training and access is **FREE** to eligible small businesses in OH, IL, IN, MI, MN, WI, AR, TX, LA, NM, OK, IA, KS, NE, MO

Who can participate?

If you meet one of the following criteria:

- are a certified 8(a) participant
- have a HUBZone certified small business
- have an economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB)
- have a small business located in areas of high unemployment or low income
- have a small business owned by low income individuals

YOU WILL LEARN:

How to navigate the government market with personalized one-to-one sessions, self-paced training, peer insights, and weekly training — all designed for government contractors.

Registration Required:

Apply now! fedmap.us/sba-e2g-training. Get access to our full course catalog, a growing peer network, and personalized one-to-one training (limited availability)

For more information about the Empower to Grow program,

Please contact your SBA District Office.

www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance

SBA Cooperative Agreement contract # SBAAGC7J2300009-01-00
This project is funded by a Cooperative Agreement from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.



U.S. Small Business Administration



Program Dates

Assistance available now through Sept 28, 2025

Full Access

Online self-paced courses, weekly and personalized one-to-one training, tools and templates.

Training provided by:

Coley & Associates, Inc.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Please contact:

The FedMap Team
info@fedmap.us
(210) 384-1503

<https://www.fedmap.us/sba-e2g-training>



DENVER
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Business Diversity



DPS Coffee Chat

February 26, 2025 | 9 am - 11 am

Session Focus: Construction & Construction Services

Please join the Office of Business Diversity for a laid-back networking event!



Why Attend

*Connect with DPS representatives
Network with other businesses
Build your local network
Learn about upcoming opportunities*

**Click here to
Register**

Convivio Cafe
4935 West 38th Avenue
Denver, CO 80212

Street parking available.

Who Should Attend

*Business Development Professionals
District Employees
Local Business Owners
Community Organization Representatives
Businesses interested in learning more about working with DPS!*

<https://businessdiversity.dpsk12.org> | www.conviviocafe.com



□ **Partner with Denver Public Schools (DPS)! □**

□ **Learn How to Do Business with DPS**

DPS offers monthly workshops to help potential contractors and vendors navigate the bidding process and discover opportunities within the district.

□ **Workshop Details:**

- When: Every second Thursday of the month, from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
- Where: Acoma Campus, 1617 S. Acoma Street, Denver, CO 80223
- Virtual Option: Available upon request. Contact Jennifer Malpiede at jennifer_malpiede@dpsk12.org for virtual attendance.

□ **Why Attend?**

- Gain a comprehensive overview of the DPS bidding process.
- Learn what's needed to become a business partner.
- Stay informed on your application status and upcoming bid opportunities through the Office of Business Diversity (OBD).

□ **Contact Us:**

- Phone: 720-423-1920
- Email: Business Diversity

□ **Take the first step toward partnering with DPS and unlocking exciting opportunities!**

2025 Workshop Series

- February 13th
- March 13th
- April 10th
- May 8th
- June 12th
- July 10th
- August 14th
- September 17th
- October 9th
- November 13th

- December 11th

DPS Calendar of Events

Attention MBEs: Explore Procurement Opportunities with Denver Public Schools!

- Discover New Projects:** Access the Denver Public Schools (DPS) bid page to explore a wide range of projects tailored for diverse businesses.
- Expand Your Business:** DPS offers incredible procurement opportunities—don't miss out on these chances to grow and collaborate!
- Get Started:** Visit the DPS bid page today and position your business for success.
- Act Now:** These opportunities won't last long. Be sure to check the bid page regularly for updates!
- Your next big project could be just a click away!**

DPS BID PAGE



Making Learning Real Through K-12 Education & Industry Partnerships

Denver Public Schools is looking to engage with new companies in Metro Denver through its Career Development Programs!

The district's K-12 work-based learning initiatives offers students the chance to explore their career identity, visualize what's possible, and gain hands-on experience within their pathway of interest.

By collaborating with local businesses, DPS is committed to broadening opportunities for youth while strengthening a local homegrown talent pipeline in the community. Programs include industry exploration events, career mentorships, high school internships, and more.

Promote your company and industry to the next generation of our workforce in 2025 by submitting a **Partner Interest Form.**

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need additional info.

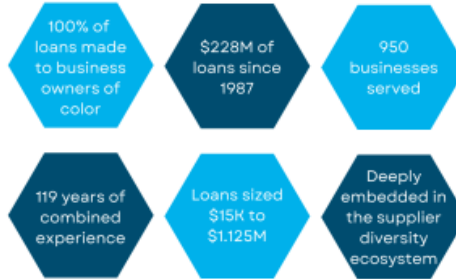
And thank you so much for giving my team a platform to help promote these impactful initiatives in support of DPS students! ☐

MISSION

The Business Consortium Fund, Inc. (BCF) exists to empower entrepreneurs by advancing equitable capital access for business owners of color. We provide funding and advice to certified minority businesses operating in the supply chains of the nation's largest corporations, as well as the supply chains of government organizations.

VISION

We envision a thriving economy with equitable capital access for business owners of color, including eliminating the racial wealth gap.










OFFERINGS

LOAN TYPES

-  Short term working capital (1 to 5 years)
-  Long term debt (5 to 10 years)
-  Receivables financing
-  Purchase order financing
-  Equipment financing
-  Micro loans from \$10K to \$100K

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS


-  Past 3 years financial statements
-  Past 3 years filed business and personal tax returns
-  Personal financial statement for the owner
-  Accounts receivable and payable aging reports
-  6 months of business bank statements
-  Bios for company owners and key employees
-  Personal guarantee from owners 10% or greater

APPLY AT: bcfcapital.com

Access to supplier contracts is a proven path for growth to small business owners.

CONTACT US

 Camellia Loojune | Director of Small Business Lending
cloojune@bcfcapital.com
212.243.7360 x 206

 Ruben Rodriguez | Chief Lending Officer
rrodriguez@bcfcapital.com
212.243.7360 x 203



**BLACK BUSINESS
BBI
INITIATIVE**
EST. 2015

Join us on Wednesday, February 19th, at 1:00p EST / 11:00a MST, for the next Monthly Mastery Series: 'Leveraging Social Media for Customer Engagement', where we'll focus on the most effective social media strategies to engage your audience, build trust, and drive conversions.

Key Highlights:

- Master the art of creating engaging content that resonates with your target audience.
- Explore the best social media platforms for customer acquisition and retention.
- Learn how to measure social media success and continuously improve your engagement strategies.
- Interactive Q&A Session: Engage directly with our expert presenter, asking questions and seeking advice tailored to your business

Are you ready to enhance your social media presence, build stronger customer relationships, and drive conversions? Well, this session is for you!

*** No replays will be available.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain actionable strategies for leveraging social media for customer engagement and driving business growth.

REGISTER HERE!

Southern Colorado Construction Forum in Pueblo



March 6th, 2025
8am – 12:30pm

Pueblo Community College
900 W. Orman Ave
Pueblo, CO 81004



www.southerncoloradosbdc.org

Registration Opens Monday, January 13th, 2025

Fee: \$20.00 *Late Registration (After March 1st) \$30.00

Register at: <https://bit.ly/4fOgqWa>

Networking Opportunities:

- Meet with local government agencies, prime contractors, and industry peers.

Educational Takeaways:

- Learn how to do business with various organizations.
- Discover planned construction projects for 2025–2026.

Exhibitor Experience:

- Visit exhibitor tables for more information on projects and services. ****Complimentary Breakfast****





Trucking Training Series

TUESDAYS @ 9 A.M.

FREE webinars for trucking and hauling companies and owner-operators on highway, bridge, and Colorado Department of Transportation projects

REGISTER: <https://2025-trucking-training.eventbrite.com>

All webinars start at 9am. Click the link above to sign up for the series or choose a date on the registration page sign up for an individual class. If you're unable to attend on a specific date, register and we'll send you a link to the recording after the class.



Connect2DOT is CDOT's small business support services program that provides free consulting and training to help contractors and consultants become more competitive and successful in contracting.

FEB 25

Keys to Running a Successful Trucking Business

MAR 4

CDOT Trucking Compliance & Certified Payrolls

MAR 11

2025 Commercial Vehicle Safety Training & Updates

MAR 18

Estimating & Bidding for Trucking Contractors

MAR 25

DBE Certification for Trucking Companies (Bilingual)

(719) 667-3803

info@connect2dot.org



2025 MBEIC UPDATES

What is the MBEIC?

Each affiliate regional council has a Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (**MBEIC**) that consists of owners/executives of minority businesses elected by local NMSDC- certified MBEs. As a standing committee of the affiliate regional council's Board of Directors, the MBEIC provides constructive input, promotes council events and activities, develops programs and serves as the liaison between

corporate members, staff and MBEs.

[MEET our MBEIC Members](#)

NEWS from the MBEIC

February 2025

Standing Strong: MBEIC's Commitment in a Changing Landscape

The inauguration of the new administration has brought a climate of uncertainty, with policies and rhetoric that threaten the progress of minority supplier diversity development achieved over the past several decades. In these challenging times, the Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (MBEIC) remains steadfast in our mission to support and empower MBEs.

Now, more than ever, we must rebrand, retool, and refine our strategies to navigate these headwinds. To that end, the MBEIC is actively working to provide MBEs with the tools, resources, and insights needed for success. Our focus includes:

- **Executing on our mandatory goals** to ensure MBEs receive the opportunities they deserve.
- **Supporting the MPMSDC council** through full engagement in the MBE Success Plan.
- **Developing resources and programs for MBEs** to build resilience, innovation, and competitive strength.

While the challenges ahead are significant, our commitment is stronger. Together, we will continue to push for equity, inclusion, and lasting success for diverse businesses.

Stay engaged, stay empowered, and let's rise to the challenge—together.

– **The MBEIC Committee**

MBDA TEAM

WHO IS THE MBDA?

The Denver Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center is the only federally-funded agency in Colorado that was created to specifically foster the growth of minority-owned businesses.

Our professional team of consultants specialize in assisting minority-owned firms source, target and secure state and federal contracting opportunities.



[Visit our Denver MBDA](#)



Andra Hargrave
Director MBDA



Carlene Johns
MBDA Grant Program Manager

Small Business: February 2025 Edition

Death of DEI Or Is It?

Yes! – DEI is being outlawed basically throughout the United States. Well, if not outlawed, it is being disassembled.

I'm not going to give my opinion, and I am not soliciting any opinions. Please do send. However, this decision will force many changes in how minority businesses will continue to operate within the State, Federal and Fortune level arenas.

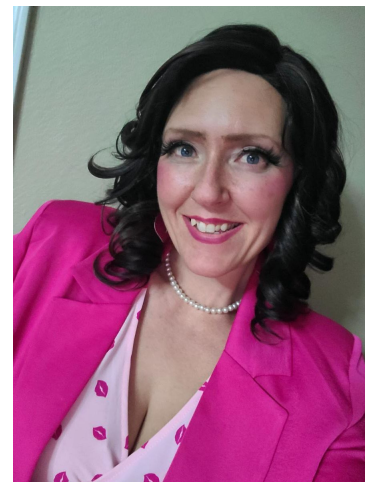
The good news? Small and Socially / Economically Disadvantaged business status and certifications will survive but automatic association with a disadvantaged group will probably cease. The status will need to be justified and substantiated.

As we witnessed about ten years ago, there was a trend of governmental agencies utilizing contracting vehicles such as Cooperative Agreements, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IDIQ), GWACS such as GSA Schedules, NASA SEWP, SeaPort-E and other contracting instruments to control and prequalify the pools for would-be vendors. You will see this trend continue. Also, as we see some agencies temporarily being closed and dismantled, we will see other agencies grow.

I have been explaining to companies for years that socio-economic certifications were always designed to be a temporary tool and that eventually a company was supposed to graduate the certification. They were never meant to be a permanent element. That is why



Cynthia Martinez
Outreach Coordinator



Angel Cardon
Procurement Technical Writer

all governmental certifications have both a net worth and gross revenue threshold (not to exceed) and in the case of 8a it has a graduation date. I am not condoning any actions. I am disappointed that something that has done such great things is being politicized and dismantled. However, there is more than one way to achieve greatness.

Please feel free to contact the MBDA and we can help you with continued certification and various contracting vehicles.

Andra Hargrave – Director MBDC

Denver MBDA Business Center

6025 S. Quebec St., Suite 135
Centennial, CO 80111
720-458-1652
info@denvermbdacenter.com

Workforce Tag Talks February 2025



Workforce Tag is excited to be supporting the MPMSDC Council Connect newsletter for 2025. As partners with the MPMSDC. The goal of WFT is to increase resources that will support the success of MBEs.

Workforce Tag is on break for the month of February. WFT and the MPMSDC will continue to support you in all your business endeavors and welcome your input as you grow. We are trusted advisors who provide resources and technical assistance for small business and nonprofits to implement financial grants, develop grant dashboards, and communicate successful outcomes. Please visit our website for more information and resources. <https://www.workforcetag.com/>

WFT and the MPMSDC will continue to support you in all your business endeavors and welcome your input as you grow. We are trusted advisors who provide resources and technical assistance for small business and nonprofits to implement financial grants, develop grant dashboards, and communicate successful outcomes.

February "MBE Spotlight"



Company Name:

Home Team Auto Sales in Omaha, NE

Owner Name: Candice Price & Ron Devers

About Home Team Auto Sales:

Owners, Candice Price and Ron Devers began working together in late 2016 and opened Home Team Auto Sales in 2017.

We go through extensive factory training so that we may provide you with the knowledge you need to make an educated decision in choosing the vehicle that is right for your lifestyle.

- Stress-free finance department.
- Robust selection of popular vehicles.
- 350 offers on site, trusted by a community.
- Maintain your car to stay safe on the road
- We know how to handle a wide range of car services.

☐ Tel: 402-505-4998

Website:

[Company Website](#)

WELCOME MPMSDC NEWLY CERTIFIED MBEs
Welcome our Newest MBEs

**Click on each company name for
website information!**



-
- [Esquibel and Son Excavation \(CO\)](#)
 - [FLEXX ID, LLC\(CO\)](#)
 - [Nikoni Pharmaceuticals, LLC \(MO\)](#)

Mountain Plains MSDC Board of Directors

**[To meet our entire Board of Directors please
check our website:](#)**

We're grateful to our Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their thought leadership, service and support in making a difference towards minority business enterprises economic inclusion and parity.



Mountain Plains
Minority Supplier
Development Council
CO-KS-MO-NE

*****Mountain Plains MSDC new hires and promotions*****

[To meet our entire staff please check our website:](#)

The Council is uniquely positioned to offer management and technical services relevant for a dynamic marketplace including: business consulting, matchmaking, contract opportunity sourcing, finance sourcing and access to international markets.

Reminders to Check the following:



[Click Here for
Current Opportunities](#)

Our bid opportunity page updates daily! **This is password protected and ONLY for certified MBEs.** If you need the updated password, please contact us at 303-623-3037 or communications@mpmsdc.org



Keep checking our calendar of events page to register for upcoming events!