

**AUGUST 2025**

**"Advancing Excellence, Building Diverse Legacies Together"**



## **Your monthly news & updates**

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

[Visit our Website](#)

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### **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](#)

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### **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!



### **Greetings and Welcome to August**

Hello MBEs, Corporate Members, and Strategic Partners!

As summer moves into high gear, the Mountain Plains MSDC is excited to keep the momentum going with a full slate of impactful events designed to foster meaningful connections and drive business growth. In just a few weeks, we'll host our **KCMO Business Enterprise Summit & Luncheon on August 27th**, bringing together MBEs, corporate members, and community leaders for an engaging program filled with networking, knowledge-sharing, and opportunities to strengthen partnerships. Then, in October, we look forward to welcoming everyone to Colorado for the **Colorado Business Enterprise Summit & Luncheon**, another dynamic platform to connect and collaborate.

Mark your calendars—Nebraska will take center stage in September with our **Nebraska Business Enterprise Summit & Luncheon**. More details are coming soon, but we can promise it will be another can't-miss gathering. In addition, on **August 19th, we'll host our virtual Corporate Roundtable**—a valuable opportunity for corporate members and strategic partners to discuss best practices, share insights, and explore innovative approaches to supplier inclusion. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these upcoming events as we continue advancing our mission together.

Thank you for being part of our community. Your commitment to advancing inclusive procurement and supplier development continues to inspire us.

Belinda Hooks  
Executive Vice President  
Mountain Plains MSDC

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- **Congratulations to Our 2024 Corporation of the Year:  
Burns & McDonnell!** □

## **REGISTER ON THE LINK BELOW**

The Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council (MPMSDC), in collaboration with our Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (MBEIC), is proud to honor **Burns & McDonnell as the 2024 Corporation of the Year!**

This recognition highlights the firm's unwavering commitment to supplier diversity and inclusive procurement practices across the region. At the heart of this success is **Tammy Martin**, Business Diversity Program Director and Secretary of the MPMSDC Board of Directors, whose leadership continues to make a meaningful impact. Tammy and her dedicated team have been true champions for diverse business development and access.

- And there's more exciting news: MPMSDC has officially submitted Burns & McDonnell to the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) for national consideration as Corporation of the Year.

- They will be formally recognized during a special awards ceremony at the upcoming

### **KCMO Business Enterprise Summit & Luncheon**

- Wednesday, August 27th
- Location: Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
- This event is free to attend and includes lunch.
- Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/b6ccacMAic>

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**WELCOME MPMSDC NEWLY CERTIFIED MBEs**

**Welcome our Newest MBEs**  
**Click on each company name for  
website information!**



- [Optimo IT \(CO\)](#)

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

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WWW.MPMSDC.ORG



**Mountain Plains**  
Minority Supplier  
Development Council

# Virtual August 2025

## 90 Minute

## Corporate Roundtable

"Advancing Excellence, Building Diverse Legacies Together"

### **Mountain Plains MSDC Corporate Roundtable – 2025**

An exclusive educational forum designed for corporate members and strategic partners to engage in meaningful discussions on key business topics.

Join us as we foster collaboration, share best practices, and drive impactful change in supplier diversity and economic inclusion.

**REGISTER TODAY!**



Tuesday, August 19, 2025



10:00a-11:30 MST

11:00a-12:30p CST

(90-minute webinar)



Microsoft Teams Link

### **TOPIC: Outlook on Supplier Inclusion Programs:**

**What are Supplier Engagement Leaders Doing with Programs?**

Join us for an insightful session focused on the evolving role of supplier diversity leaders and the innovative approaches they're deploying to grow and strengthen their programs.

This roundtable will:

- Explore where supplier engagement leaders are expanding their reach.
- Discuss who they are partnering with and how those relationships are prioritized.
- Uncover strategies used to manage through today's volatile business environment.
- Offer practical tools for planning your next step in supplier engagement.



**Your virtual hostess:**

**Dr. Andrea Hendricks**



 **Ideal for:**

- ☒ Supplier Engagement
- ☒ Procurement & Supply Chain Leaders
- ☒ Corporate Members & Strategic Partners

CERTIFY | DEVELOP | CONNECT | ADVOCATE

**VIRTUAL**

**REGISTER HERE August Corporate Roundtable**





WWW.MPMSDC.ORG



Mountain Plains  
Minority Supplier  
Development Council

**REGISTER TODAY!**



Tuesday, October 7th



9 AM – 2 PM

- CHECK IN 7:30 AM
- SHOTGUN START 9AM



Arrowhead Golf  
Course

10850 Sundown Trail  
Littleton, CO 80125



**ARROWHEAD GOLF CLUB**

**Tuesday, October 7th**


**Swing into Fall Golf**

MPMSDC Golf Tournament

**Welcome to the 2025 Mountain Plains MSDC  
Annual Mountain Golf Tournament**

**Includes Breakfast Burritos & Luncheon Buffet**

It's that time of year again, and we're excited to welcome you to the 2025 Mountain Plains MSDC Annual Golf Tournament! Whether you're a pro on the course or swinging a club for the first time, this event is built for everyone. Designed for all skill levels, today is about connection, fun, and friendly competition. Should you need anything throughout the day, our Marketing Events Manager, Cindy, is happy to assist—reach her at [cindy@mpmsdc.org](mailto:cindy@mpmsdc.org)

Let's make this tournament one to remember. See you on the green! 



**Swing into  
Summer**

Enjoy the day!  
Delicious Food!  
Cold Beverages!



**Networking**

Network with  
colleagues and friends



**Friendly  
Competition**

Enjoy a day filled with  
friendly competition

CERTIFY | DEVELOP | CONNECT | ADVOCATE



COLORADO

**REGISTER HERE FOR GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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**

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**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)**

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**Join the Next Inclusive Certificate of Mastery – Fall 2025 Cohort**

**Express Interest Now! Closes on Monday, August 18th!!**

In June, we are thrilled to have celebrated the completion of our first cohort of the Inclusive Certificate of Mastery and Capstone Program, an in-depth learning journey.

For 16 months, 18 Kansas City area professionals-built leadership capacity and expanded understanding – and respect – for a broad range of perspectives. What sets this certificate program apart are the roundtable discussions, 1:1 coaching with self-assessments and capstone projects that apply academic learning to real world challenges.

Along with our partner, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, we are excited to move forward with the 2nd cohort to begin Fall 2025. To learn more, send us a message at <https://forms.office.com/r/ihC6VZ6YYU> by August 11, 2025. There will be virtual learning options for select cohort participants.

Check out our sizzle reel!

<https://vimeo.com/1103257988?share=copy>



# COLORADO

## Office of Economic Development & International Trade

### New Construction Bond Assistance Training

The State of Colorado launched a new construction bond training program (in English and Spanish) that equips contractors with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand, obtain, and manage bonds for State construction projects. The training is available on-demand on both partner websites. Get started on the training and create a free account here:

- [Construction Bond Assistance Online Course \(English\)](#)
- [Curso en línea de asistencia para fianzas de construcción \(español\)](#)

This training was produced by the Statewide Equity Office's [Bond Assistance Program](#) at the Colorado Department of Personnel & Administration in collaboration with the [Colorado Minority Business Office](#) at the Office of Economic



Development & International Trade in response to a 2020 Disparity Study, which identified the need to support contractors with construction bond assistance and because construction bonds are required for performance on State contracts.

The Statewide Equity Office's [Bond Assistance Program](#) offers collateral for new contractors working with the State on general construction and bridge and highway construction projects. The program is also working on a guide for contractors to understand entry points and opportunities for working on State construction projects.

This announcement comes shortly after the successful launch of the [Colorado Supplier Diversity Directory](#), where businesses can apply to be listed for FREE and have their business designations verified as a HUBZone, small, diverse-owned, and/or veteran-owned business. This helps buyers in the State connect with Colorado businesses, resulting in the best value to the State and ensuring that tax dollars spent by the State government are supporting local businesses. Partners at the Minority Business Office will work with businesses seeking certifications.

Those interested in learning more about this training, the Statewide Bond Assistance program, or applying for a FREE listing on the business directory are encouraged to contact the Colorado Supplier Diversity Navigator by calling 303-866-5765, emailing [DPA\\_SupplierDiversityHelp@state.co.us](mailto:DPA_SupplierDiversityHelp@state.co.us), or by visiting [dhr.colorado.gov/sd](http://dhr.colorado.gov/sd).

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## How would a big contract change your business?

Find out at the **Contract Opportunities Expo, happening August 13, 2025**. This one-day event is your chance to connect directly with government agencies, prime contractors, and corporate procurement professionals to learn how to land that big deal.

- Learn about real-time contracting needs from over 30 exhibitors
  - Network with decision-makers.
  - Attend breakout sessions & roundtable discussions
- Are you ready to grow your business?

**REGISTER HERE**

<https://sbdc.colorado.gov/contract-opportunities-expo>

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## **Want to Meet the People Awarding Contracts?**

At the Contract Opportunities Expo, you won't just collect business cards—you'll make real connections.

- Federal & state agencies.
- Prime contractors.
- Local procurement officers.

They're coming to the Expo because **they need small business partners like you.**

Whether you're in construction, IT, professional services, or manufacturing, the opportunities are real...and waiting.

<https://sbdc.colorado.gov/contract-opportunities-expo>

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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**

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**\*\*BID OPPORTUNITY\*\***  
**BID OPPORTUNITY\*\*BID 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.



❑ **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](mailto: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!



- 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! ☐

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# BUSINESS CONSORTIUM FUND

THE SUPPLIER DIVERSITY CDFI

## 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.

100% of  
loans made  
to business  
owners of  
color

\$228M of  
loans since  
1987

950  
businesses  
served

119 years of  
combined  
experience

Loans sized  
\$15K to  
\$1.125M








Deeply  
embedded in  
the supplier  
diversity  
ecosystem

## 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](https://bcfcapital.com)

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

### CONTACT US



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212.243.7360 x 203

# 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.

## **NEWS from the MBEIC**

### **August 2025**

The Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (MBEIC) is here to champion, connect, and empower MBEs across our network. We work to ensure that minority-owned businesses have not only a seat at the table but also the resources, insights, and relationships to grow and thrive. Part of that mission is sharing strategies that help MBEs turn opportunities into long-term success stories.

#### **Using Certifications as a Growth Tool, Not Just a Checkbox**

Your MBE certification is more than a credential. It's a business development tool. Too often, we view certification solely as a requirement to participate in supplier diversity programs, but it can also be a differentiator in competitive markets. Proactively share your certification with current clients, feature it in proposals, and use it as a conversation starter with potential partners. Most importantly, pair your certification with proven capabilities - showing not just that you're certified, but that you deliver exceptional results. This combination strengthens your credibility, reinforces the value of supplier diversity, and positions your business as a trusted, go-to resource.

The 2025 NMSDC Annual Conference & Exchange is coming up November 2–5 in Miami, and it's one you won't want to miss. This national event is your opportunity to connect with hundreds of corporate partners, engage in targeted matchmaking, and gain insights that can truly shift the trajectory of your business. Learn more and stay updated at [nmsdcconference.org/2025](https://nmsdcconference.org/2025).

**Mark your calendar for this year's Opportunity Accelerator (OA) in Miami!**

Join us on **Sunday, November 2, 2025, from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.**, for an energizing afternoon designed to ignite ideas, forge meaningful connections, and position your business for success throughout the NMSDC Annual Conference & Exchange. *Hosted annually by the National MBE Input*



*Committee (NMBEIC), the Opportunity Accelerator is a dynamic pre-conference experience created **by MBEs, for MBEs**. This **FREE** event brings together minority business enterprises, NMSDC corporate members, and regional affiliate staff in a space built for connection, insight, and momentum.*

Start your conference on a high note—join us in Miami for powerful conversations, valuable networking, and insights that will elevate your journey. Videos of past OA events can be found here: <https://www.nmbeic.org/videos>

**Registration opens soon!**

The MBEIC is here to support you every step of the way. Whether you need guidance navigating a certification, making strategic connections, or simply staying informed about contract trends - we're committed to helping our MBE community thrive. Let this summer be a season of momentum!

**Stay tuned for more ways the MBEIC is working to advocate for and support our certified businesses throughout the region.**

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

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## August "MBE Spotlight"

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Name of Company: Global Soft Systems, Inc

**Owner Name:** Gopal Aedma

**About the Company:** Founded in 2001, Global Soft Systems, Inc. is a pioneer in applying innovative, technology-based solutions to common business problems. We help organizations have advantages over competitors by reducing costs, ensuring system stability, and improving efficiency. We also help companies strategize, plan, and deploy cutting edge technologies with the overall purpose of contributing to the realization of their business goals.

We provide our services to Fortune 1000 companies as well as fast growing mid-sized companies across a variety of industry segments. While privately held and headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, Global Soft Systems provides services across the United States. We are the company who connects worlds, on resource at a time.

**Contact:** 913-338-1400

**Website:** <https://globalsoftsystems.com>

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## **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.

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## 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](mailto:communications@mpmsdc.org)



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

Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council | 6025 S. Quebec St. Suite 135 |  
Centennial, CO 80111 US

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