

Minority & Small Business News

Transportation Careers Training Program

By Barbara Beagles

The Transportation Careers Training Program (TCTP) is designed to prepare unemployed, underemployed, minorities, females, and other economically disadvantaged individuals for meaningful employment opportunities in the transportation industry. This program includes Pre-Employment Train-

ing, Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training (permit only), and Heavy Equipment Operator's Training.

The TCTP will assist in lowering the state's unemployment rate by increasing the number of participants that may become gainfully employed after successful completion of this program. It will also assist contractors by creating a pool of applicants from which they may recruit individuals to participate in

the On-the-Job Training Program in fulfillment of the Training Special Provision Requirements.

Residents of Orangeburg County are eligible to participate in the program. Six participants are enrolled in the training program.

The TCTP continues to serve as a mechanism for preparing individuals for career opportunities in the transportation industry. The 2022 TCTP will be implemented in Cherokee County.

Estimating, bidding courses offered

By Anthony Cromartie

Each Wednesday evening from Feb. 23 – April 6, 2022, the former DBE firm S2 Engineering & Consulting, LLC, facilitated a course at SCDOT Headquarters.

Each week they offered insight about how to develop pricing in

response to a professional services proposal request. Topics included how to conduct a market analysis, assess your competition, develop a cost proposal, determine what costs to consider and some of the pitfalls you need to avoid.

Participants also explored the following concepts: how to market your services, how to calculate your costs, what are the elements involved in determining an over-

head rate, what is the difference between Invitation For Bid, Requests For Proposals, and Market Research. Throughout the course foundational principles included: explanation of bidding process, market analysis, comparative analysis of competition, cost analysis, and how to build a bid.

If you are interested in participating in future courses, please contact Cromarti.AR@scdot.org.



PHOTO BY GARY LINN

From left: Grace Hidalgo with APEX Construction Group, LLC; James Cooper with SCDOT; and Luis Hidalgo of APEX Construction Group, LLC.

On-the-job training, advice provided to contractors

Chief Technical Advisor and Compliance Manager **James Cooper** provided one-on-one training to APEX Construction Group, LLC, on how to install concrete invert and catch basins.

This included how to order materials according to SCDOT QPL (qualifying product list) and checking elevations.

The training prepared APEX to successfully install four catch basins on an SCDOT project in Aiken County.

SCDOT's four-person DBE Technical Assistance team takes pride in providing hands on support to not only ensure that firms are successful in completing their work according to Agency specifications but also on-time and in-budget.



Ashton Williams worked with upstate maintenance crews to clear roads during this years snow events. Williams got his CDL while working in Williamsburg County in 2012.

DBE employee helps out during winter storms

Ashton Williams, DBE Technical Advisor in the Division of Minority and Small Business Affairs, enthusiastically assisted SCDOT's York Maintenance in January 2022 during Winter Storm Izzy.

Williams obtained his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) while working with Williamsburg Maintenance in October 2012.

Director of Maintenance **David Cook** contacted Williams to learn if he was available to deploy to the upstate maintenance office which was experiencing a shortage of

CDL operators needed to clear roads and thereby ensure drivers and pedestrians remained safe during this event.

Williams viewed this opportunity as an honor to contribute to the Agency, "It's not what the SCDOT can do for me, but what I can do for the SCDOT."

He noted that the biggest take-aways include taking great pride in being an SCDOT employee and how important our work is to keep South Carolina roads and bridges safe for its citizens.