



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contractor Association Creates New Diversity & Compliance Director Position

EDISON, NJ – Following an analysis of small, women-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned and disadvantaged contractors (collectively called MWDBEs) certified in New Jersey, the Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey (ACCNJ) has created a new position, Diversity & Compliance Director, to help its contractor members meet the diversity goals of New Jersey's public agencies as required for public construction projects.

Carol Fulton, who has served as Membership Development Director at ACCNJ since 2013, assumes the new role, effective immediately. Carol spearheaded the Association's successful Diversity Conference in 2018.

As New Jersey public agencies began to ramp up diversity goals for public projects, ACCNJ and its industry partners became increasingly concerned over the lack of quantifiable information on the ability of certified MWDBE contractors to perform the work prescribed in public contracts. In 2017, the Association and industry partners formed the New Jersey Construction Alliance and commissioned a comprehensive study of more than 1,000 MWDBE contractors certified by two New Jersey state agencies, NJ Transit and NJDOT.

The study, by Atlanta-based EuQuant, an economic research and urban planning company, revealed that, while New Jersey MWDBE contractors have more "capacity" (the ability to perform work successfully within a given time period) than in other regions of the country, New Jersey general contractors are still challenged to find MWDBEs qualified to perform public work. In fact, the study found the greatest capacity among MWDBEs showed up in the smallest public contract values, indicating an urgent need for a significantly greater number of qualified MWDBEs if state agency diversity goals are to be met.

The study results, presented to representatives at NJ Transit and NJDOT, prompted ACCNJ to create the new position to demonstrate the Association's commitment to meeting diversity goals and actively promoting initiatives to both quantify capacity and expand the capacity of existing MWDBE contractors.

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About ACCNJ

ACCNJ represents general building contractors, construction managers, and heavy, highway, site development and utility contractors in New Jersey that employ tens of thousands of skilled union craftworkers each year. Members are responsible for billions of dollars in commercial, industrial, heavy, highway, utility and institutional construction projects annually. The Association is committed to raising the standards of construction in New Jersey through quality, integrity, skill and responsibility.