



Bexar County Small Business & Entrepreneurship Department

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Honoring the Graduates of the Mentor-Protégé Program

SAN ANTONIO, TX – The Bexar County Small Business & Entrepreneurship Department celebrates the graduation of four small businesses from our Mentor-Protégé Program Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 10:00am. Graduates will be honored during a presentation at Bexar County Commissioner’s Court.

The Bexar County/Associated General Contractors of America – San Antonio Chapter (AGC) Mentor Protégé Program is the small business development component of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Department (SBED). This program exists to build effective working relationships between leaders of mature established companies and locally owned small companies in order for the latter to benefit from the knowledge and experience of the established firms.

The Mentor Protégé relationship is a two year commitment where the protégé, two mentors, AGC staff, and the County SBED Director work together to help develop the protégé firm’s marketing, operations and financial performance. While mentors provide their protégés with advice and assistance based on their real life business experience, on occasion one-on-one assistance is needed to help the protégé develop the tools he/she needs to develop sustainable business.

“Our partnership with Bexar County has been fantastic,” says Doug McMurry, Executive Vice President of the San Antonio Chapter of the AGC. “It’s been recognized nationally for its success in helping minority and women-owned construction businesses. We look forward to more accomplishments in the future.”

The mentor firms met with their protégé monthly to review their business and actions plans and teach them how to market their company. The SBED Director attends all team meetings and coordinates follow-up action plans. The term was November 2015 thru November 2017. Services and reports were monitored by the Mentors and the SBED.

The following Protégés have met the requirements for graduation:

Protégé: **Kyle Villarreal, K-AIR Corporation (SASMBE)**
Mentor : John C. Wright, Alterman
Mentor: Paul Poettgen, HCDDT Insurance Agency

Protégé: **Othon Ruiz/ Darrell DeCock, Vaqueros Electrical LLC (SHMBE)**
Mentor : Mike Sireno, Baker Triangle
Mentor: Bill Gellhausen, USI Southwest

Protégé: **Debbie D. Gretchner/ Rudy Estrada, D&R Electric Company (SMWBE)**
Mentor : Doug Nunnelly, FA Nunnelly
Mentor: Glen Young, Zachry Construction

Protégé: **Alma Zamora/ Luis C. Zamora, Zamco Trucking (SHMWBE)**
Mentor : Patrick Byrnes, Turner Construction
Mentor: Chris Thiel, Alterman

The next group of Bexar County/AGC Mentor/Protégés is scheduled to begin in May 2018.

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Bexar County Small Business and Entrepreneurship Department Mission Statement:

The County's Department of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Department (SBED) embodies the strong partnership between economic development and entrepreneurship. The SB&E Department, which is charged with the responsibility of administrating the Small, Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (SMWVBE) Program, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and coordination for US DOT Title VI Regulations as applied to Bexar County's Federal Highway (FHWA) funded projects, seeks to establish innovative programs that involve new or existing businesses and provide monitoring and compliance.