

34TH ANNUAL DBE WORKSHOP AND SECRETARY'S GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARDS IN REVIEW



[WisDOT's 34th Annual DBE Workshop and Secretary's Golden Shovel Awards conference](#) in partnership with the National Association of Minority Contractors Wisconsin Chapter was held February 19 – 20, 2020 at The Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

Diversity and Inclusion

On Day 1 State Representative Shelia Stubbs kicked off the conference with a thought provoking and motivational speech that left everyone clapping and standing on their feet. Day 1 keynote speaker, Alex Lasry, Milwaukee Buck's president, shared his vision on the future of Milwaukee and how small businesses like Abraxent, LLC can play a vital role. Based on her business type of work and DBE status, Adonica Randall, president of Abraxent, was solicited by Alex personally, to participate in the growth and development of Fiserv Forum. Alex was followed by an entrepreneurial panel of DBE businesses who shared their common experiences as business owners. Later in the afternoon, [Lt Governor Barnes shared his thoughts on diversity and inclusion.](#)

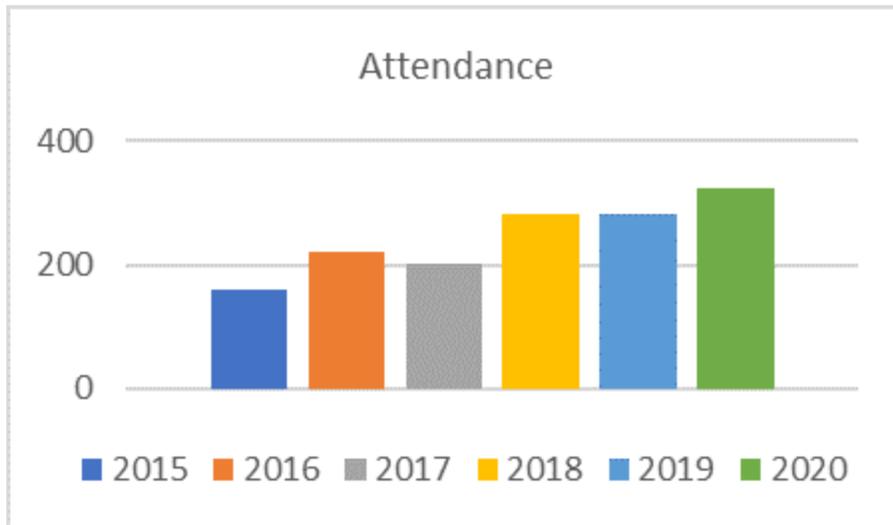
2020 Business Luncheon Entrepreneurial Panel



Moderator: Shannon Jefferson, Gibraltar Industries Inc. *Panelist:* Bridget Booker, Reign Construction, Wenbin Yuan, Dakota Intertek, Clifton Phelps, JCP Construction LLC & Jose Sanchez, Sanchez Painting

Attendance up nearly 15%

As usual the February weather was cold, but the program continued its "hot" streak and exceeded its previous year's attendance of 281 registrants for 323 registrants in 2020!



Survey Outcomes: What were you thinking?

In addition to supporting the conference as a volunteer or speaker, responses to the question “What was your primary reason for attending the Secretary’s Golden Shovel conference” resulted in the varied reasons shown in the table below:

Reason	Percent
Networking Opportunity	68%
Opportunity Panels	14%
Network with Trans graduates	12%
Keynote speakers	10%
Access to WisDOT Leadership	8%
Workshops with PDH Credit	4%

“84% of respondents said the Professional Development Workshops were beneficial”

Professional workshops with the highest attendance and high evaluation marks were:

- [Bridging the Skills Gap in Construction](#)
- [Developing your Elevator Speech](#)
- [Introduction to Subcontracting with WisDOT](#)
- [The Struggle is Real - Challenges Every Business Would be Foolish to Ignore](#)
- [Strategies for Recruiting and Retaining Women in the Construction Workforce](#)
- [Tips for Consultants Working for WisDOT](#)

Here are a few comments from the survey:

- “These workshops have always been thought out and very beneficial. Appreciate all the hard work in developing these workshops thank you.”
- “...would like to see popular sessions held so that all can attend...”
- “...was great to have personal contact with DOT and DBE staff. “

A Question of Usefulness

Construction Industry professionals are known for their bluntness, so when asked if portions of the conference were useful or not, the results could have been more harsh. To the contrary, no question concerning the conference earned more than a “2% “not useful” vote.

The most notable lament was the lack of Northern and Central Region Primes and DBEs in attendance. Other feedback indicated that there should be more focus on projects. Additionally, scheduling issues were noted, particularly in regard to the Lt. Governor’s presentation and presentation of NAMC awards.

On the positive side, attendees most appreciated networking opportunities and keynote speakers. Of particular note was WisDOT’s commitment to the DBE firms, the Secretary’s attendance and Michele Carter’s enthusiasm.

Finally, 49 out of 50 stakeholders who completed the online survey said they would attend the 35th Annual DBE Workshop conference in 2021 and here’s [why](#).



Michele Carter, WisDOT OBOEC Director, Shelia Stubbs, Wisconsin State Representative, Rosalind Roberson, WisDOT Civil Rights Urban Outreach Strategist, George Lawrence, NAMC-WI Executive Director, Ugo Nwagbaraocha, NAMC-WI President

NAMC-WI 2020 GOLDEN CHAMPION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



JERRY FULMER, WEC ENERGY GROUP (l-r): Ugo Nwagbaraocha, President, George Lawrence, Executive Director and LT Governor Mandela Barnes

NAMC-WI 2020 GOLDEN CHAMPION AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN THE WISCONSIN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



PAYNE AND DOLAN, A WALBEC GROUP COMPANY (l-r): Nikki Nelson, Human Resources Manager, Tracey Griffith, Human Resources Outreach Manager, Diane Gadzalinski, Vice President Human Resources



PRISM TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT & MARKETING SERVICES, LLC (l-r): George Lawrence, Executive Director, NAMC-WI, Jerry Fulmer, WEC Energy Group, Joann Crump, CAO, Prism, Randy Crump, CEO, Prism, LT Governor Mandela Barnes and Ugo Nwagbaraocha, President, NAMC-WI

2020 SECRETARY'S GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARD WINNERS



AMERICAN CAPITAL CORP (AICCW-FACC) (l-r): Craig Anderson, Executive Director, AICCW-FACC and WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson



CBS SQUARED INC. (l-r): Sheryl Chaffin, President and WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson



DK CONTRACTORS INC. (l-r): Madalena Maestri, DBE Program Chief, Mickey Day, President, DK Contractors and WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson



GODWIN AMEGASHIE, CEO SEED CONSULTING, LLC and Director, Supplier Diversity, State of Wisconsin, Madison, Retired with WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson



HARD ROCK SAWING AND DRILLING SPECIALIST CO. (l-r): Michael Hobolich, Sales/Project Manager and WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson



NORTHEAST ASPHALT, INC. | A WALBEC GROUP COMPANY (l-r): Tracey Griffith, Heather Saylor, Dan Eckstrom and WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson

READY, WILLING AND ABLE DBE FIRMS IN ATTENDANCE

Abernathy Consulting Ltd.	Edna	Abernathy	edna@abernathyco.com
Arrow Crete Construction LLC	Ann	Neshek	Aneshek@wi.rr.com
Best Ed / Airgas	June	Perry-Stevens	jperry@bestedbuisness.com
Best Ed Business	Beth	Bauer	jperry@bestedbuisness.com
Beth Foy and Associates, LLC	Beth	Foy	bethfoy@execpc.com
Bloom Companies	Mathew	Tharaniyil	ceruchalu@bloomcos.com
CBS Squared Inc.	Sheryl	Clafin	sclafin@cbssquaredinc.com
CEP Engineering, LLC	Hanna	Johnson	Hanna@cepcompany.com
ChicagoMSDC (Chicago MBDA Export Center)	Robert	Young	ryoung@chicagombdaexportcenter.com
Cloud Cover Lawncare & Snow Removal	Marcus	Cloud	cloudcover83@icloud.com
Cross Management Services, Inc	CARLA	CROSS	ccross@cross-management.com
Dakota Intertek	Wenbin	Yuan	wyuan@dakotaic.com
Diamond Discs International	Ugo	Nwagbaraocha	UgoN@DiamondDiscs.Net
DK Contractors, Inc	Micky	Day	Mickyday@dkcontractors.net
DOLSON INC	Nadine	Musson	ann@dolsoninc.com
Double D Landscape, LLC	Lynette	Bastian	lynetteb@doubledlandscape.com
E.R. Abernathy Industrial Inc	Kuinn	Long	edna@abernathyco.com
EJM Engineering, Inc. /TRANSMART	Emily	Silverson	esilverson@transmartinc.com
Equity Supply Group	Clifton	Phelps	clifton@equitysupplygroup.com
Gibraltar Industries Inc	Shannon	Jefferson	sj@gibraltarindustriesinc.com
Hard Rock Sawing & Drilling Specialists Co	Michael	Hobolich	hardrock@genevaonline.com
Harkinson Consulting LLC	Julie	Harkinson	info@harkinsonconsulting.com
Heritage Ready Mix	Eric	Johnson	heritagereadymix@aol.com
Hero Plumbing	Rashawn	Spivey	rashawn@heroplumbingwi.com
IBC Engineering Services, Inc.	Amber	Burke	amberb@ibcengineering.com
Interra, Inc.	Julia	Slota	jslota@interraservices.com
Jahnke & Jahnke Associates LLC	Paul	Jenswold	pjenswold@jahnkeandjahnke.com
JCP Construction LLC	Clifton	Phelps	clifton@jcp-construction.com
K. Singh & Associates, Inc.	Muhammad	Adil	pmicklevitz@ksinghengineering.com
KL Engineering, Inc.	Kim	Lobdell	klobdell@klengineering.com
M Squared Engineering	Minal	Hahm	minal@msquaredengineering.com

READY, WILLING AND ABLE DBE FIRMS IN ATTENDANCE

M&J Krueger Trucking LLC	Karen	Krueger	mjkruegertrucking@gmail.com
MTC Business Consulting & Management	Caprice	Hill	capricehill@ymail.com
North States Steel	Sandra	Myers	smyers@northstatessteel.com
Oneida Engineering Solutions, LLC	Matthew	Kunstman	mkunstman@oesllc.com
Platt Construction Inc.	Dick	Platt	dickp@plattcon.net
Prism Technical Management & Marketing	Randy	Crump	rcrump@prismtechnical.com
REIGN CONSTRUCTION	Bridget	Booker	Bridget@reignconstructioninc.com
Rivera & Associates, Inc.	Michael	Rivera	michael.rivera@riveraprfirm.com
Sanchez Painting Contractors	Jose	Sanchez	sanchezpaintingcontractors.com
SEED Consulting, LLC	Godwin	Amegashie	godwin@seedconsultingmadison.com
Singh & Associates, Inc.	Sia	Prosper	sprosper@singhinc.com
SOS (Security Officer Services, Inc)	Diana	Kuhrt	soswi@sbcglobal.net
Spann & Associates, LLC	Bruce	Spann	bspann@spannllc.com
Stormwater Solutions Engineering, LLC	Carrie	Bristoll-Groll	cbg@stormwater-solutions-engineering.com
Street kingz LLC	Parvon	Washington	jamll316@gmail.com
Technisource Packaging Group	Elizabeth	Tran	elizabeth@technisourcegroup.com
Toki & Associates, Inc.	Theo	Iyasele	theo@tokiandassociates.com
TranSmart Inc.	Jing Connie	Li	cli@transmartinc.com
Tremmel-Anderson Trucking, LLC	Bonnie	Eggers	theresa@tremmel-andersontrucking.com
TUNJI-LESI CPA LLC	ADETUNJI	LESI	tunjilesi@tunjilesicpa.com
Vinii Solar Engineering & Electric	Vinko	Iyasele	Vinii@Vinii-Solar-Engineering.com
White Buffalo Trucking LLC	Amy	Hacker	ahacker1@new.rr.com
Wisconsin Interstate Contracting LLC	Renee	Koebe	renee.koebe@wisintercon.com
ZARA LLC	Goitom	Ghebreyohannes	gotish6@gmail.com

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO WISDOT'S PRIME CONTRACTOR AND DBE CHAMPION DANIEL ZIGNEGO AND ZIGNEGO INC.



At the 2015 Secretary's Golden Shovel Awards, Zignego Inc. was inducted into the WisDOT Golden Shovel Hall of Fame for their outstanding contributions to the development of Wisconsin DOT DBE and TRANS Programs. Daniel Zignego, Controller, who recently passed the evening of Wednesday, February 19, 2020, was a sought out workshop presenter at the Annual DBE workshop conferences. The afternoon of February 19th Dan was leading a workshop titled, *"The Struggle Is Real: Known Challenges (and solutions) every Business Would be Foolish to Ignore"* with Renee Koebe of Wisconsin Interstate Contracting and Don Miller of OES. Dan was also a valued participant at WisDOT's Transportation Advisory Committee meetings (TRANS-AC) providing a prime's perspective on the impacts of DBE special provisions required on federal highway funded contracts. Daniel's contribution to WisDOT OBOEC DBE Program will be forever



Dan Zignego networking with a DBE Firm at a Construction Networking Session with Prime Contractors



See you next year!

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