

Reset Community Colleges and Employers

By Carl Smith

Are community colleges prepared to train the workers a technology-based economy requires? Joseph Fuller of Harvard Business School talks about findings from a multiyear research project that shows they have far to go.

The partnership between employers and community colleges falls short of what is needed to meet an urgent shortage of skilled workers, according to a recent report from the Project on Managing the Future of Work at Harvard Business School (HBS) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Employers, including technology companies, are increasingly willing to hire workers who lack four-year degrees. But good jobs still require skills, and those skills need to be learned somewhere. In response to the workforce disruption caused by the pandemic, state and local governments have increasingly turned to community colleges to help meet this need, funding workforce training programs and tuition.

The extent to which such efforts succeed is directly related to the way in which training programs match the needs of employers. While there are colleges where this correlation is in good shape, multiyear, multi-method research by HBS and AACC found that it is not the norm.

“The current state of collaboration is failing to meet today’s business needs and putting future competitiveness and prosperity at risk,” said professor Joseph Fuller, co-chair of the Project on Managing the Future of Work and co-author of the report, in announcing its release.

Fuller describes findings from the exhaustive look at the state of employer/educator partnerships, the first effort of its kind, as a “wake-up call.” More than four in ten employers agreed that community colleges did not have the “mandate or culture” to develop programs that match what they are looking for in employees.

On the other side of the coin, educators “struggle to get employers engaged” to discover the skills that their jobs require. While ninety-eight percent of community college leaders considered it “very important” for employers and community



colleges to partner, only fifty-nine percent of employers shared this view.

In addition to a detailed look at the factors hindering collaboration, the report offers a framework and strategies for bringing cooperation

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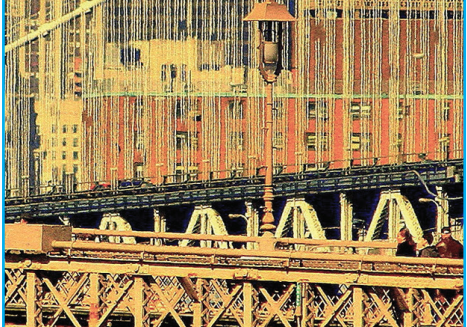
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George Washington Bridge—Rehabilitation of Structural Steel

PANYNJ Contract No. GWB-244.287

Bid Date: February 14, 2024

Brief description of work:

The work under this contract consists generally of rehabilitation of structural steel and concrete, removal of lead and asbestos-containing paint, repainting the underside of the lower level, replacement of maintenance travelers, center median upgrades, and related work at the George Washington Bridge lower level, and above the Hudson River, the New York City Park area, the New Jersey Palisades Interstate Park, and the vicinities thereof in New York and New Jersey. The work under Contract GWB-244.287 consists generally of bridge maintenance, travelers’ maintenance, repairs, testing, and system upgrades. GWB-244.287M—Agreement to Perform Maintenance of the George Washington Bridge Maintenance Travelers and Associated Systems.

Participation goals: 20% MBE, 10% WBE, and 3% SDVOB

ALL QUOTATIONS ARE DUE BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

For further information concerning subcontracting and/or purchasing opportunities, and to register as a subcontractor or vendor, please respond to solicitations@tutorperini.com or contact Arlene McBayne at (914) 739-1908. Come and join our team!

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

Design-Build Services for LIRR West Side Yard Flood Mitigation Measures

MTA Construction and Development Contract No. 6401

Bid Date: February 14, 2024

Description of project:

Design, furnish, construct, and install concrete perimeter flood walls, seepage cut-off barriers below the concrete flood walls, flood gates, deployable flood barriers, sump pumps, a tide gate chamber, drainage system improvements, workable aisles and a diesel generator, an automatic transfer switch, ancillary electrical equipment, and required communications.

This project will develop flood protection solutions for the West Side Yard in order to prevent and mitigate flooding of the LIRR Tunnels. The flood protection along the WSY perimeter will be accomplished via a combination of permanent flood walls and deployable flood barriers.

Many bidding opportunities are available: deep foundations, minipiles, jetgrout, sheeting, rebar installation, concrete supply, site work, electrical work, painting, paving, curb and sidewalk, site utilities.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska’s Diversity and Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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BIDDING OPPORTUNITY

City of Valhalla, New York, with the following certifying authority: SBA, DOT, New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut

Inviting qualified contractors, specifically firms within New York State, to contact J. F. Shea Construction, Inc. (prime contractor listed below) regarding subcontracting services and material supply opportunities in connection with Tunnel and Shafts Project in the City of Valhalla, New York

NYC DEP Contract No. KENS-EAST-1

Bid Date: March 28, 2024

Opportunities to participate exist in the following specific areas of soil/rock excavation, hauling, excavation support systems, deep foundation system (slurry walls or secant piles, soldier beams), dewatering systems, structural steel, engineering, survey, geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring services, materials testing, demolition and site preparation, tree removal, aggregates and fill, traffic control, sewer tap and sewer bypass pumping, A/C paving, environmental investigation, utility relocation, paving, fencing and gates, planting and seeding, retaining wall, cured in-place concrete structures, cast-in-place pipe lining, reinforcing steel, ground stabilization, shotcrete, concrete finishing, miscellaneous metals, mechanical steel pipe, ventilation HVAC, precast concrete shaft covers, temporary office buildings/services, temporary electricians, waterproofing, service utilities, grouting, electrical/I&C, river bank stabilization, drilled shaft, pest control, IT services, waste disposal, cleaning services, and security.

Any business seeking to participate as a DBE in the contract that is not currently certified as set forth above review is encouraged to contact the certifying authority for SBA, New York State, State DOT, New Jersey, or Connecticut to obtain current certification.

NYC DEP has an FTP site where you can view all plans, specifications, and addendums for your convenience. Please contact Aimee Remo at (909) 594-0990, aimee.remo@jfshea.com, to receive instructions on accessing the FTP Site.

J. F. Shea Construction, Inc.

667 Brea Canyon Road, Suite 22

Walnut, CA 91789

Phone: 909-594-0990 Fax: 909-869-0827

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Hillview Reservoir Chemical Addition Facilities Project

NYC DEP Contract No. HVR-210

Bid Date: January 25, 2024

Description of project:

The Hillview Reservoir is located in Yonkers, New York and provides balancing and storage of NYC and Yonkers drinking water. The work under this contract includes an upgrade of the existing North Entrance, construction of the two new Chemical Addition Facilities (CAF) buildings (CAF-North and CAF-South), two new electrical service feeds and distribution equipment, new flow measurement, a new SCADA system, and interim structures for chemical systems, water quality monitoring systems, and carry water pumps. Construction of the new CAF buildings includes major support of excavation consisting of secant piles, soldier pile and lagging, tie backs, mass earthwork, mass concrete, and a significant amount of architectural building furnishings and finishes.

Many bidding opportunities are available: electrical, plumbing, HVAC, haul and dispose, on-site trucking, rebar, masonry, fence and guardrail, paving, waterproofing, windows and doors, fill materials, geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring, safety professional, environmental boring and testing, flatwork curb and sidewalk, landscaping, tile, furniture, office trailers, survey, painting, office cleaning, lumber supply, erosion and sedimentation control supplies, jobsite toilets, MPT supplies, site photography and video, rodent control, arborist.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska’s Diversity and Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled



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COMPANY PROFILE

Edwards Unlimited is an award-winning media production and leadership development business enterprise. Our company is dedicated to helping corporations, entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations celebrate their successes and share their vision with the world through high quality video production, media/ presentation training and strategic communications. President & CEO Janice Edwards is an award-winning talk show host, Emmy-nominated producer, co-author of the international best-seller *Step Into Your Brilliance*, an in-demand MC, and an acclaimed contributor to community empowerment through her media work.

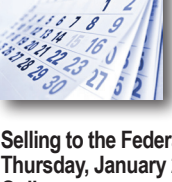
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- Edwards Unlimited Legacy Interviews are 1080p 04K video and/or audio recording with transcripts capturing family treasures as living historical documents.
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- These legacy interviews have created joy and happiness among family members and friends. They become a living record for loved ones in the future.

NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS



2024

Fee: Free; registration required

Starting a new business? Looking for capital and finance options? Looking for general advice on starting or maintaining your business? Hear from representatives from the local SBA office and the New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division. This workshop (currently held online during the pandemic) is offered on the first Thursday of every month. To join this free webinar, copy and paste the link below into your browser, then register for tickets for the date of your choice to receive the access code. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/secretary-of-state-quickstart-and-small-business-administration-programs-tickets-262004180557>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 10:30 am–11:30 am Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must use Microsoft Teams is functioning.

SBA and SOS Monthly Webinar

Thursday, February 1, 2024, 9:00 am–11:00 am Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division

Contact: Miguel Moralez, 603-225-1601, miguel.moralez@sba.gov