



In This Issue:

1. Spotlight
2. Cohort 2 A/E Closeout
3. Launch/Kickoff of Cohort 3
4. Cohort 3 Pairings



1. Spotlight: Vernell Barnes

Vernell Barnes has shown exceptional initiative by engaging with Clayton County and navigating challenges in securing design-oriented projects.

They have actively participated in marketing meetings, with their mentor, Moody Nolan for discussions on strategies, and provide valuable insights for improving the Mentor Protégé Program, showcasing their innovative mindset and strategic vision for growth.

Welcome to the latest issue of the Clayton County Central Services Mentor Protégé Program newsletter, offering an insightful glimpse into the strides and accomplishments achieved within our mentor-protégé pairs. In this edition of the quarterly newsletter for the Clayton County Central Services Mentor Protégé Program, we delve into the final updates from our Cohort 2 - Architect & Design participants, highlighting their achievements, challenges, and suggestions for program enhancement. From navigating project complexities to forging strategic partnerships, each protégé's journey reflects the program's commitment to fostering growth and collaboration within the local business community. Additionally, we provide insights into the launch of our latest cohort with a focus on construction-related businesses and share details about upcoming events, including the Small Business Social, aimed at fostering networking opportunities and community engagement. For more information, you can visit the official program page [here](#).

We are also pleased to introduce the Clayton County Central Services Mentor-Protege Program Podcast! Explore insightful discussions and success stories, available for listening [here](#).

2. Cohort 2 A/E – Closeout – Final Updates:

M3Engineering: Throughout the Mentor Protégé Program, M3Engineering has made significant progress, particularly on the Ogeechee project, where they've navigated challenges with project scope and negotiation fees. Engaging in bi-weekly calls and strategic discussions with their mentor, they've honed pricing strategies and explored new market opportunities, showcasing resilience and commitment to project success.

METROTRAFIX: METROTRAFIX has demonstrated resilience in pursuing project opportunities, and securing shortlisted positions for ventures in Cobb County, Alpharetta, and Smyrna. Collaborating closely with their mentor, they've prioritized team-building efforts and strategic planning sessions, positioning themselves favorably for future endeavors.

RNSC Technologies: RNSC Technologies has showcased adaptability in addressing challenges related to project tracking and negotiation dynamics. Through ongoing discussions with their mentor, they've refined pricing strategies and explored avenues for talent acquisition, emphasizing the importance of program expansion and resource optimization for program effectiveness.

Tchouaffe Architects: Tchouaffe Architects has leveraged their participation in the Mentor Protégé Program to enhance operational efficiency and explore new market opportunities. Engaging with their mentor, they've focused on administrative support implementation and recruitment strategies, while actively pursuing project acquisition initiatives such as RFQ responses and capacity-building endeavors.

Vernell Barnes: Vernell Barnes has capitalized on engagements with Clayton County while navigating challenges in securing design-oriented projects. Actively participating in marketing-focused meetings and project submissions, they continue to explore avenues for growth within the Mentor Protégé Program, highlighting the program's benefits while suggesting areas for improvement.

Closeout Date: April 6, 2024

Small Business Social – May 9th, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Stay tuned for more success stories, updates, and insights in the next edition of our quarterly newsletter!

For more information, please contact:
Clayton County Central Services
Contract Compliance Division:
770.472..8109

Contract Compliance Manager:
Tamisha McKenzie.

Tamisha.Mckenzie@claytoncountyga.gov

Contract Compliance
Program Coordinator: Eddie Eades.
Eddie.Eades@claytoncountyga.gov

Mentor Protege Program
CentralServices.Mentorship@claytoncountyga.gov

Follow us on social media:



[@Clayton County Central Services](https://www.facebook.com/ClaytonCountyCentralServices)



[@ClaytonSLBE](https://twitter.com/ClaytonSLBE)

3. Launch and Kickoff of Cohort 3 – Construction:

We are thrilled to announce the initiation of Cohort 3 within the Mentor Protégé Program, focusing specifically on construction-related businesses. This cohort marks an exciting opportunity for mentorship and collaboration, aiming to foster growth and innovation within the construction industry. Cohort 3 comprises a diverse group of construction-related businesses, each bringing unique expertise and experience to the program. From cost estimating to development and construction, the cohort reflects a wide spectrum of specialties within the construction sector.

4. Cohort 3 Pairings:

Mentor: Costrak Consulting

- **Protégé: Nikrav Corporation.**
 - Costrak Consulting brings extensive cost-estimating experience and a proven track record in the construction industry. Paired with Nikrav Corp., a company with years of experience in the field, this partnership aims to enhance cost management practices and foster growth opportunities.

Mentor: Ujamaa Construction

- **Protégés: Michael Joseph Company & Quality Lawn Care Inc.**
 - With a focus on developing true construction firms, Ujamaa Construction serves as a mentor with strong construction experience. Paired with Michael Joseph Company and Quality Lawn Care, this partnership aims to leverage mentorship to bolster operational efficiency and expand capabilities within the construction domain.

Mentor: MEJA Construction

- **Protégés: AusDanBrook, Inc & VLW Group, LLC.**
 - MEJA Construction, known for its expertise in construction and a former Mentor of the MPP, partners with AusDanBrook and VLW Group to provide mentorship and guidance. With a shared focus on construction experience and years in business, this partnership aims to foster growth and innovation within the construction sector.



Conclusion

As we conclude this edition, we extend our gratitude to all participants for their dedication to the Clayton County Central Services Mentor Protégé Program. We eagerly anticipate further achievements and growth in the months ahead!



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Clayton County Central Services Mentor Protégé Program

7994 N. McDonough Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236
CentralServices.Mentorship@claytoncountyga.gov

