

# Press Release

January 15, 2009

## **Bronx Citizens Group Presents Skanska's Van Thompson with Community Service Award**

**New York, NY** – Skanska USA Building Inc. announced today that a Bronx community board has presented Rufus Van Thompson with its Community Service Award for his work with Skanska's "Construction Management Building Blocks" program. The adult education course prepares minority and women contractors to excel in their work and their construction industry business.

Thompson received the award for his "unwavering commitment to developing the Bronx community." The course, held at Bronx Community College, was attended by 32 "subs" from all over the city.

"It's great to see Skanska recognized for its commitment to diversity in a New York community," says Thompson, who was recently appointed to Skanska's National Diversity Council. "This award proves the "Building Blocks" program's success, and will help it to grow in the future."

Each year Skanska partners with a different community organization. This year Skanska worked with the Bronx Overall Economic Development Committee. Past partners include the Harlem Business Alliance and the New York State Association of Minority Contractors in Brooklyn. In addition to Bronx Community College, Skanska previously teamed up with Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College and The City College of New York in Manhattan.

Skanska's "Building Blocks" started in the face of an optimistic forecast of an 18 percent increase in construction citywide between 2006 and 2009 [source: New York Building Congress]. But, says Thompson, "It's even more important if construction slows that Skanska New York prepare local subcontractors – especially these minority and women business owners – to withstand an economic shift. And besides, the demand and need for construction haven't diminished at this point."

Students receive training in marketing, estimating, project startup and closeout, scheduling accounting, legal process, human resources, safety, and bonding. Also, they are provided with a basic introduction to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® certification process and to sustainable development, construction management techniques, and environmental health and safety.

Thompson is currently Project Manager on the United Nations Capital Master Plan Project. A graduate of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Thompson has certificates in Engineering and Architectural Technologies.

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**For further information please contact:**

Jessica Murray, Director of Communications Skanska USA Building,  
Tel 404.946.7468, [jessica.murray@skanska.com](mailto:jessica.murray@skanska.com)  
Anthony Angelico, Capelin Communications, Tel 212.779.4949,  
[aangelico@capelin.com](mailto:aangelico@capelin.com)

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Skanska USA Building Inc. is a leading national and local provider of construction, pre-construction consulting, general contracting and design-build services to a broad range of U.S. industries including science and technology, healthcare, education, high-tech, aviation, transportation and sports and entertainment. Skanska USA Building also provides pharmaceutical validation services to clients. The company, part of the Skanska AB global group of companies, is headquartered in Parsippany, New Jersey, and has approximately 4,700 employees.

Skanska is one of the world's leading project development and construction groups with expertise in construction, development of commercial and residential projects and public-private partnerships. The Group currently has 60,000 employees in selected home markets in Europe, in the U.S. and Latin America. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden and listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, Skanska's sales in 2007 totaled \$20 billion.