



Skanska USA Building Inc.
136 Madison Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, New York 10016
www.skanska.com

News

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jessica Murray
Skanska USA Building
jessica.murray@skanska.com
404.946.7468

Anthony Angelico
Capelin Communications
aangelico@capelin.com
212.779.4949

Minority Contractors Get Training in Construction, Business Skills

Skanska's New York office trains 32 "subs" in annual program for minority, women, and small-business companies, held this year in the Bronx

NEW YORK (Nov. 19, 2008) – Skanska USA Building Inc. announced today that with construction safety, building “green” and the cautious forecast for construction in the city high on the list of challenges to New York City subcontractors, a record 32 adult students already in the industry graduated from the 2008 “Construction Management Building Blocks” Program offered annually by Skanska and held this year at Bronx Community College [BCC].

“Our seven-week adult education program prepares minority, women, and small-business contractors to be proficient and competitive in the development and construction industries,” said Van Thompson, Skanska’s Vice President and Project Manager responsible for the training. This is the third “Construction Management Building Blocks” program that Skanska has presented. This year, the team included the community college and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation [BOEDC]. Prior partners were the Harlem Business Alliance and the New York State Association of Minority Contractors.

Speakers featured at the graduation ceremony included Steven J. Pressler, Executive Vice President and Area General Manager of Skanska USA Building Inc.; Ozzie Brown, President of Ozzie Brown Construction; Dr. Carolyn Williams, President of Bronx Community College and Earl D. Brown, Bronx Deputy Borough President. The ceremony took place in the rotunda of BCC's Gould Memorial Library, an architectural icon designed a century ago by McKim, Mead & White.

Participant speakers included Charles Notice, a contractor from Harlem and President of Adroit Development Corp. and Leonard Goodlowe, President of Omega Plumbing and Heating from Queens.

“Skanska is committed to training and diversity, both internally and externally,” Thompson explained. “One way is to extend our professional relationships into local communities where we are working. We’re not only helping to construct the physical infrastructure, but the social and economic one as well.”

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, said Thompson, “It’s even more important if construction slows that Skanska 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.”

Students receive training in marketing, estimating, project startup and closeout, scheduling accounting, legal process, human resources, safety and bonding. Thompson teaches both construction management techniques and “Leadership in Energy &

Environmental Design,” a basic introduction to the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED® certification process and to sustainable development.

Skanska fielded most of the instructors from its senior staff. Besides Thompson, faculty included Skanska’s Jennifer Buermann for systems and controls; Marty Bruno for environmental health and safety; Dana Jones and Angela Moulton for project accounting; and Daniel Shay for human resources.

Background on Skanska and Skanska USA Building Inc.:

Skanska USA Building 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 life sciences, healthcare, education, high-tech, aviation, transportation and sports and entertainment. The US company --which is part of the Skanska AB global group of companies has approximately 4,700 employees [worldwide, Skanska employs 60,000]. The New York office has 200 employees and has just moved into new headquarters space in the Empire State Building. Skanska is committed to contributing to a more sustainable world and devotes considerable resources to this goal. A leader in green building worldwide, Skanska was ranked the “2007 Top Green Contractor” in the United States by *Engineering News Record*. [www.skanska.com]

Background on Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation:

The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC), a community-based non-profit organization, has been a central figure in the revitalization of the borough, stimulating and coordinating economic development in The Bronx. By continually planting seeds of business growth, BOEDC has successfully generated new and expanded employment opportunities for its residents. BOEDC now has a 27 year history as a leader in the economic resurgence in The Bronx, working in partnership with myriad private and public entities, and offering technical assistance services to Bronx businesses. [www.boedc.gov] **Contact: Mr. Rome Birkett, rbirkett@boedc.org, 718.537.5261**

Background on the Bronx Community College of the City University of New York:

2007 marked the 50th anniversary of Bronx Community College which was established in 1957 after a decade of effort by civic-minded groups in Bronx County to meet the growing need for increased higher education facilities in the “Borough of Universities and Progress.” [www.bcc.cuny.edu]

###