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## MDC HOLDS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR LOCAL WOMEN AND MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

**For Immediate Release  
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(HARTFORD, CT) – On November 21st and 22nd, the Metropolitan District (MDC) partnered with the University of Hartford's Entrepreneurial Center to host over a dozen local women and/or minority small businesses at its 2014 Executive Leadership Academy. In addition to representatives from the MDC and the Entrepreneurial Center, the event featured speakers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Connecticut Construction Industries Association, as well as prime contractors.

The two-day event, which took place at the University of Hartford's Entrepreneurial Center on 1265 Asylum Avenue in Hartford, provided the attendees with information and guidance regarding how to access business development tools. Participants also learned how to effectively market their products and services and were provided information and on how to obtain project financing, bonding, insurance and administration assistance.

Additional workshops included how to develop business cards, create an online presence with websites and how to navigate the MDC's online electronic bidding portal. At the conclusion of the event, business owners had the opportunity to network with current MDC prime contractors who were part of the day's program.

Don Shubert, president of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association, advised the group on how to market themselves and recognized the MDC for their leadership in outreach to small contractors. "The MDC has built a great reputation with our industry and sponsors top shelf programs like today's Executive Leadership Academy", said Shubert.

Thea Montanez, MDC Commissioner and chair of the Community Affairs and Diversity Committee, spoke at the event and acknowledged the Entrepreneurial Center as a great partner for the MDC and congratulated the attendees for being successful in something, "very personal to me as a Hartford resident, woman of color and as a small business owner."

**About the MDC:** *The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, under a series of special agreements, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington and East Granby.*

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From Left to Right: Sandra Cahill, Director, University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center, Don Shubert, President, Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Mike Jefferson, Diversity Manager, MDC, Thea Montanez, Commissioner, MDC.