



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

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Robin L. Douglas (914) 699-9050

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER AND THE MTA IN WORKSHOPS FOR DISADVANTAGED/MINORITY/WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority are working together to present workshops for disadvantaged, minority, or women-owned businesses beginning in October 22, 2005. The four-day, 32-hour program has been successfully launched in other areas of the state to help business owners compete successfully for contracts with the MTA and other government agencies. Historically, 76% of participants are awarded contracts.

The "Hudson Valley Prep (Preparing for Profit)" Program for fall will be offered on Saturdays from October 22 - November 12, 2005. Among the subjects covered in the \$110.00 course (funded by the MTA and the African American Chamber of Commerce) are marketing, cost estimating, accounting and navigating through a bureaucracy. The PREP course will be held at the Chamber office in Mount Vernon, NY from 9:00am - 5:00pm, continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

"The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is pleased to join efforts with the African American Chamber of Commerce to assist the Hudson Valley minority and small business community to effectively compete for MTA and other government agency contracts. We believe the PREP Program is an effective mechanism to facilitate this objective," says Kenneth A. Neal, director of the MTA's Civil Rights office.

"We are excited about bringing this opportunity to local businesses," says Robin Douglas of the African American Chamber of Commerce. "There are millions of dollars worth of contracts out there subject to competitive bidding, and these workshops help people find the keys to success in winning those contracts," she says. The MTA and other government agencies purchase a variety of services ranging from computers to landscaping, and printing to uniforms.

The programs corporate and community sponsors include: The MTA & Bank of America.

For information on the program, which is taking registrations now, contact the African American Chamber of Commerce at 914-699-4749 or visit www.africanamericanchamberofcommercenys.org.

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