

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: **October 7, 2002**
Invitation To Attend The Press Conference
Contact: Robin L. Douglas (914) 699-9050

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

Representatives of the college, the MTA, and the African American Chamber of Commerce will share details at a press conference at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15. Media members, corporate sponsors and community leaders are invited to the office of WCC President Joseph Hankin on the Valhalla campus for information on the program.

Westchester Community College is working together with the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to present workshops for disadvantaged, minority, or women-owned businesses beginning in November 2002. 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 November 2 through November 23. The spring program will commence on May 10. Among the subjects covered in the \$150 course (funded by the MTA, Westchester County, African American Chamber of Commerce, and WCC) are marketing, cost estimating, accounting and navigating through a bureaucracy.

"The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is pleased to join efforts with WCC and 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, Citibank, Anheuser-Busch, Polo Ralph Lauren, Westchester Community College and the African American Advisory Board.

For information on the program, which is taking registrations now, contact Westchester Community College at (914) 785-6985 or email Sarah.Fowler-rogers@sunywcc.edu or the African American Chamber of Commerce at 914-699-9050 or visit www.africanamericanchamberofcommercenys.org.

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AFRICAN AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WESTCHESTER & ROCKLAND COUNTIES INC.

100 Stevens Ave., Ste. 202
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

October 8, 2002

TO: Corporate Sponsors, Community Leaders and Members of the Press

FROM: Robin L. Douglas, President/CEO/Founder

RE: MTA Hudson Valley PREP Course

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