

**G.W. Peoples Contracting Partners with Bronx Design and Construction Academy (BDCA) for Youth Employment Opportunities on WMATA SafeTrack Project**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 25, 2017**

**Washington, DC:** Melvin E. Clark, Jr., Chairman/CEO of African-American owned railroad construction contractor, G.W. Peoples Contracting Co. Inc. (GWP), headquartered in Arlington, VA, is pleased to announce that GWP's successful partnership with Dwayne Sampson, CEO of the Transportation Diversity Council (TDC), to recruit, hire and train up to 30 Bronx Design and Construction Academy (BDCA) graduates which has resulted in meaningful jobs working on the SafeTrack rail maintenance project for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Graduates arrived in the DC area for safety and operational training in early summer last year. GWP has and will continue to work with TDC staff to provide mentoring and career guidance for the young adults until they establish individual self-reliance, and are assured to be on the right path to career advancement.



**GWP BDCA New Hires in Training**

As of January 2017, after eight months, 24 out of the 25 students hired from the BDCA are still on the job. Several have already been promoted to supervisory positions and all are performing exemplary work.

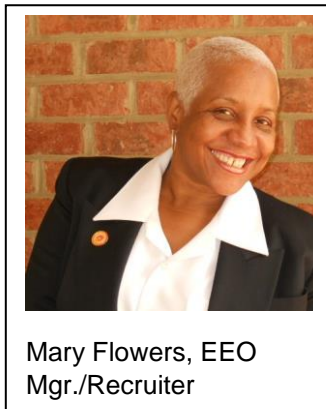
The BDCA offers a rigorous liberal arts curriculum along with a state-of-the-art Career and Technical Education in Construction & Design Technologies. Its students have demonstrated excellence in winning national and international industry awards and the school has proven to be a trailblazer in the preparation of young adults to pursue a career in the field of transportation and construction.

GWP, with the support of partners from businesses and from the community, continues to make positive difference in the industry. GWP has extended its highly successful recruiting, hiring and on-the-job training efforts through outreach to job fairs, union halls, local churches, police stations, and the Washington Urban League. Chronically unemployed individuals have been placed in positions that

include operators, mechanics and laborers, and are provided skills that are easily transferable to lifelong careers. GWP remains committed to continuing to advance diversity and quality in the workplace, from the corporate offices to the front lines of construction sites.

GWP Chairman Melvin E. Clark, Jr., visited the school to see first-hand how the students were engaged in acquiring the requisite industry skills and declared his appreciation for the opportunity to become aligned with the school. He subsequently became a featured speaker at their graduation. Clark stated, “We at GWP are proud to offer to these recent graduates a true opportunity to better support themselves and their families, at the same time addressing the severe unemployment in the inner city.”

BDCA founder Sampson added, “It is our hope that these efforts will advance and improve the socio-economic dynamics of this country.”



Clark also added, “G. W. Peoples strives for a diverse workforce that reflects the demographics of the neighborhoods that the transit systems serve. In addition to the BDCA graduates, of the GWP 130 employees working on the WMATA SafeTrack maintenance project, more than 50% are minority and/or women and are residents of the DMV (DC/Maryland/Virginia) regional area. This is thanks in large part to the intense corporate recruiting efforts led by Mary Flowers, GWP’s EEO Manager and Recruiter.”

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