



TradePoint Atlantic Launches Empowerment Academy

Fostering Economic Growth and Diversity Inclusion Through Innovative Minority, Women, and Veteran-Owned Business Investment Program

BALTIMORE, MD (July 6, 2023) — TradePoint Atlantic, a Baltimore region strategic commercial gateway and supply chain leader, is proud to announce the launch of a supplier diversity initiative, *TradePoint Atlantic Empowerment Academy*, a groundbreaking training program for minority, veteran, and women-owned small businesses.

This new initiative represents a significant investment and commitment to historically disadvantaged businesses and is designed to help ensure they have access to the necessary tools to thrive in today's competitive environment, ensure successful bidding of contracts, while fostering a lasting partnership with TradePoint Atlantic.

Intended to fulfill a vital role in the short and long-term economic development of the Baltimore region, the *TradePoint Atlantic Empowerment Academy* will provide comprehensive training and resources to minority entrepreneurs, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to grow their businesses. Seeking ways to expand TradePoint Atlantic's current supplier diversity program, the academy is an outgrowth of a listening session where local, minority and women-owned businesses shared that access to quality

resources to help them grow as companies would be a real catalyst for driving economic empowerment and reducing disparities. As a result, the curriculum will cover various aspects of entrepreneurship, including human resources management, accounting and fiscal management, workforce engagement, business financing, procurement, marketing strategies, and leadership development.

The *Tradepoint Atlantic Empowerment Academy* will hold its inaugural cohort consisting of ten Minority and Women-Owned Enterprises (M/WBE) in Fall 2023. The two-month program, designed in partnership with Mayson-Dixon Companies and its CEO, Jayson Williams, is fully sponsored by Tradepoint Atlantic. It will be a competitive, construction-industry focused, and personalized program for participating businesses. Inspired by the motto “Help You Grow,” the three pillars of the program are: Grow Professionally, Grow Your Business, and Grow with Tradepoint Atlantic. The academy includes a comprehensive curriculum, expert-led workshops, networking and collaboration, and ongoing access to resources at the completion of the program. In addition, Tradepoint Atlantic has contracted the professional services of several leading minority and women-owned businesses whose principals will lead the weekly workshops.

“The *Tradepoint Atlantic Empowerment Academy* is an effort to level the playing field by providing direct access and tools to minority, veteran, and women-owned small businesses so they can succeed in the marketplace well into the future,” said **Kerry Doyle, Tradepoint Atlantic’s Managing Director**. “As Tradepoint Atlantic continues to grow with the Port of Baltimore, this new initiative is a commitment to help expand opportunities and success to all communities.”

“Tradepoint Atlantic firmly believes that promoting fairness and equity will drive economic success in the industries in which it operates,” said **Aaron Tomarchio, Tradepoint Atlantic Executive Vice President – Corporate Affairs**. “We look forward to empowering these entrepreneurs, continuing to contribute to the economic growth of our community, and fostering a more

inclusive business environment.”

“Tradepoint Atlantic is one of the largest industrial sites on the Eastern Seaboard with incredible growth potential,” said **Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Adrienne Jones**. “Working towards this growth by investing in minority, veteran, and women-owned small businesses will ensure inclusive industrial development.”

“Baltimore County’s greatest strength is its diversity, and Tradepoint Atlantic’s new Empowerment Academy demonstrates its commitment to advancing equal opportunity and promoting economic success for historically disadvantaged businesses,” said **Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski**.

“Tradepoint Atlantic has become a transformative economic engine for the region, our communities and our residents, and we look forward to its continued growth and success for generations to come.”

“As my business has grown over the last seven years, I know how difficult it can be to raise capital, attract and retain talent, and ensure the correct systems, protections and processes are in place, said **Jayson Williams, Mayson-Dixon Companies’ CEO**. “Tradepoint Atlantic is meeting empowerment academy business participants where they are and is ensuring their ongoing success through support services intended to advance their businesses.”

Beginning Thursday, July 6, interested minority, veteran, or women-owned business owners can apply by filling out a free online application. Candidates must be certified as a M/WBE by the State of Maryland, Baltimore City, or another Maryland jurisdiction, and commit to attending in-person classes at Tradepoint Atlantic on Friday mornings throughout September and October. Applications will be reviewed, and interviews conducted in August, with selected businesses notified and announced in September before workshops commence.

For more information about the *Tradepoint Atlantic Empowerment Academy*, eligibility criteria, and application process,

visit www.tpaempowermentacademy.com or contact Brian S. Bailey, Academy Director at bbailey@tradepointatlantic.com or (443) 649-5053.

About Tradepoint Atlantic: The 3,300-acre multimodal logistics and industrial center in Baltimore, Md., offers a gateway to U.S. domestic and global markets, featuring an unmatched combination of access to deep water berths, rail, and highways. At Tradepoint Atlantic, industry is set in motion with the financial backing of Redwood Holdings, as well as the robust support of local and state government which enables the redevelopment of the former Sparrows Point steel mill site. From here, world-class companies unleash their potential, jobs are created, communities prosper, and industry is set in motion. For more information visit www.tradepointatlantic.com.

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