



TradePoint Atlantic Announces Empowerment Academy Inaugural Cohort
Training Initiative to Boost Minority, Veteran, and Women-Owned Small
Businesses

BALTIMORE, MD (September 15, 2023) — TradePoint Atlantic, the Baltimore region strategic commercial gateway and supply chain leader, is proud to announce its first cohort of small businesses that have been accepted into its Empowerment Academy.

Launched in Summer 2023, the Empowerment Academy is a new initiative representing a significant investment and commitment to historically disadvantaged businesses. This two-month program will begin Friday, September 15. Through this initiative, minority, veteran, and women-owned small businesses will receive guidance and support needed to thrive in today's competitive business environment. Their participation will also forge a lasting partnership with TradePoint Atlantic and its clients and vendors.

"As TradePoint Atlantic commenced the recruitment and interview process for the Empowerment Academy, we were encouraged with the diversity and capacity we identified among this first cohort of participants," said **Aaron Tomarchio, TradePoint Atlantic Executive Vice President – Corporate Affairs**. "Our commitment extends beyond merely supporting companies with a contract for business; it encompasses investing in the long-term growth and success of small business leaders, who, in turn, will contribute to local employment and the long-term sustainability of their communities."

Fostering sustained long-term economic growth in the Baltimore region is a fundamental commitment of Tradepoint Atlantic. To expand partner and supplier diversity, the Empowerment Academy has been designed to accelerate this mission. The curriculum reflects the needs of small business entrepreneurs, covering critical areas such as human resources management, fiscal responsibility, workforce engagement, financial strategies, procurement, marketing excellence, and leadership development. Additionally, the small businesses in the Academy will have access to increased networking opportunities, comprehensive training by expert workshop instructors, and ongoing valuable resources.

"Mayson-Dixon is honored to be collaborating with Tradepoint Atlantic in support of its diversity, equity, and inclusion endeavors, and specifically on the Empowerment Academy" said **Jayson Williams, Mayson-Dixon Companies' CEO**. "Approaching my eighth year as a small business owner, I can personally attest to the arduous journey of launching and sustaining a business, replete with its share of challenges. However, I can confidently affirm that for those who possess unwavering passion for their ventures and a steadfast commitment to success, they will invariably discover the means to surmount any obstacle. This resilient spirit is something our inaugural cohort members all share."

After a rigorous selection process, Tradepoint Atlantic is proud to announce the following businesses chosen for the inaugural Empowerment Academy cohort:

- B-Elite Transportation – Baltimore County
 - Women-owned small business

- Brown Safety Consulting – Howard County
 - African American-owned small business

- Calderon Enterprises – Baltimore County
 - Latina women-owned small business

- CBY Enterprises – Anne Arundel County
 - African American-owned small business
- D&L Foreclosure Cleanup – Baltimore City
 - African American women-owned small business
- Dirt Plus, Inc. – Prince George’s County
 - Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- Green Mechanics – Prince George’s County
 - African American-owned small business
- Insight Engineering – Prince George’s County
 - Southeast Asian-owned small business
- Kim Engineering – Prince George’s County
 - East Asian-owned small business
- M Luis Construction – Montgomery County
 - Latina women-owned small business
- Lightning Electric – Baltimore City
 - African American-owned small business
- Roane’s Rigging & Transfer – Baltimore County
 - African American women-owned small business

The twelve-member inaugural cohort represents a strong combination of well-established enterprises and recently founded companies with a combined 247 years in business. Of those chosen, 41 percent are women-owned businesses, 75 percent are minority business enterprises, and eight percent are veteran-owned.

“Tradepoint Atlantic is proud to partner with our TPA Empowerment Academy inaugural cohort. Through our pioneering comprehensive program, we are

committed to leveling the playing field, fostering sustainable inclusive growth and economic success through direct engagement that will position these incredibly diverse companies for continued growth and opportunity." said **Kerry Doyle, Tradepoint Atlantic Managing Director.**

For more information about the Tradepoint Atlantic Empowerment Academy visit www.tpaempowermentacademy.com or contact **Brian S. Bailey, Executive Director**, at bbailey@tradepointatlantic.com (443) 649-5053.

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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.
