

## Construction Business Jump Starts with College

Nonprofit school privately funded

*See related photo from B front*

Cultural diversity is being promoted at the Northwest College of Construction, a privately funded nonprofit school giving people high-performance skills to compete in the construction marketplace.

The college, located at 8111 N.E. Holman St., reaches out to economically disadvantaged youth, helping them to become knowledgeable of the career-advancement opportunities in the construction industry.

As baby boomers approach their retirement and fewer ap-

plicants enter into construction, the industry faces an unprecedented workforce shortage.

The college's mission is to develop quality workers by offering lifelong learning in craft, technical, supervisory and management education.

Most of the students have their classes entirely paid by apprenticeship programs in the construction trades, such as carpenters, laborers, heavy equipment operators and masons. Others have employers who pay for classes and training.

About a third of the apprenticeships are filled by minorities and about six percent are women.

The college is the first of its

kind in the Pacific Northwest. Offerings include heavy equipment programs, carpentry, sheet metal and heating ventilation air conditioning, pipelaying, roofing, blueprint reading, project management and supervisory training.

Management and some technical courses are offered in short-term seminar format to accommodate busy schedules. All classes are taught by experienced tradespeople and industry experts who are trained in education.

To view a full schedule of class offerings, visit [nwcc.com](http://nwcc.com). You can also get more information or arrange for a tour of the campus by calling NWCC at 503-256-7300.

## Minority Business Tradeshow

*continued ▲ from B4*

MED Week speech, "Staying Motivated in Challenging Times" is sure to leave the audience captivated.

The awards luncheon will honor the success of three minority owned businesses from Oregon and southwest

Washington. Each award winner has demonstrated dedication to industry excellence and a firm commitment to community involvement.

The recipients of the 2007 MED Week awards are Construction Contractor of the Year Award presented to Maurice Rahming of O'Neill

Electric; Service Contractor of the Year Award presented to Ronaldo Mazzyck of Paper Chase Shredding and Recycling; Professional Service Firm of the Year Award presented to Faye Burch of FM Burch and Associates; and Corporate Diversity Award Winner - Skanska USA.

## Minority Small Business Champion

*continued ▲ from B5*

land International Airport and the newest venture, the Beaverton Bakery Cafe with 40 full-time employees.

Over the last two years, Burch has worked to reactivate the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Minority Con-

tractors. The chapter, with over 40 active members, is involved in all phases of contracting, advocacy, training and development for minority contractors.

She has also served two terms as a Presidential appointee to the SBA National Advisory Council and was recently elected to the Board of Direc-

tors of the National Association of Minority Contractors.

Burch attended the University of Oregon majoring in English and Political Science and Portland State University majoring in Construction Project Management. She is certified by the State of Oregon Construction Contractors Board.

## Business Mentors Matched to Start Ups

*continued ▲ from B7*

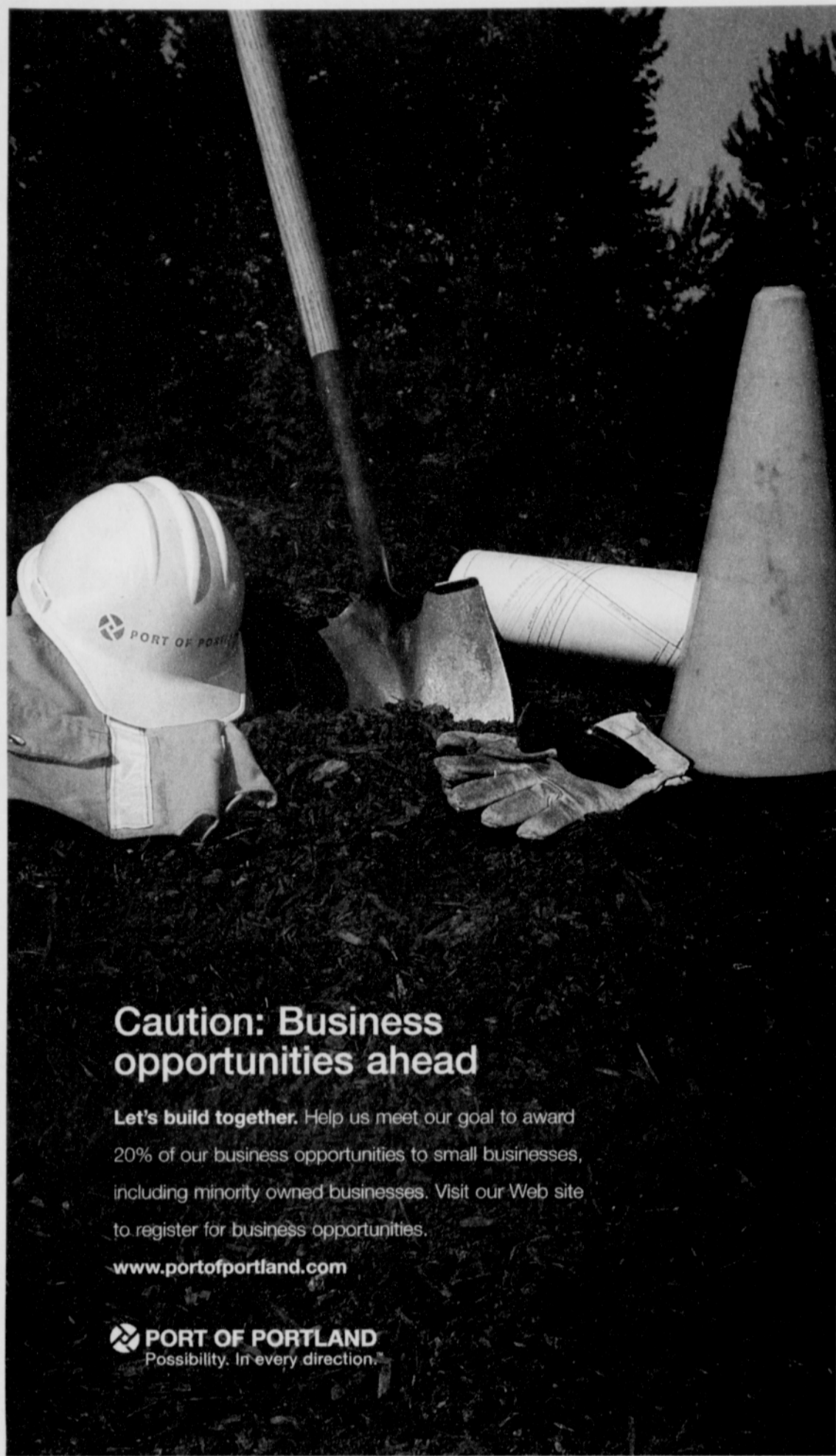
and encourages small business to explore the Mentor Protégé Program.

"Bottom line, our goal in this program is to increase access and participation of small businesses in Port business opportunities," says Rhondda Edmiston, Small Business Development Program Manager.

"A variety of opportunities are available including construction and specialty construction; commodities such as office supplies, equipment, and fuel; and professional services such as environmental consultants, surveyors, inspectors, engineers and staffing services. The Mentor Protégé Program is a good way to access these opportunities are our other programs includ-

ing the Online Supplier Registration Program and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program."

Information on all of the Port Small Business Development programs and applications for the Mentor Protégé Program is available on-line at [portofportland.com](http://portofportland.com) or by contacting Anna Naval at 503-944-7593.

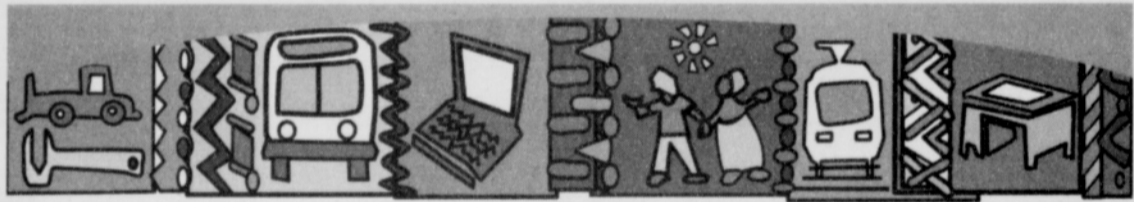


### Caution: Business opportunities ahead

Let's build together. Help us meet our goal to award 20% of our business opportunities to small businesses, including minority owned businesses. Visit our Web site to register for business opportunities.

[www.portofportland.com](http://www.portofportland.com)

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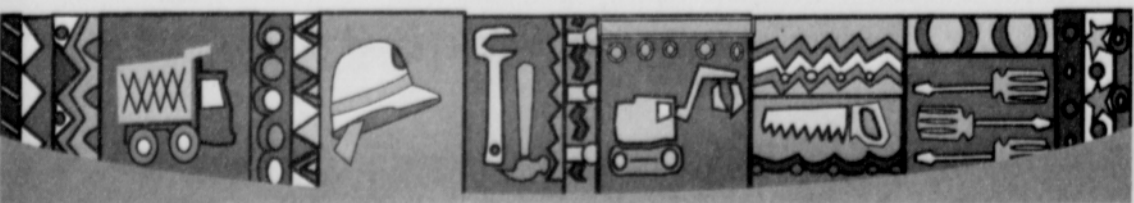
## Thank you Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.

Stacy and Witbeck, Inc. is a leader in creating opportunities for disadvantaged business enterprises. The company has a proven track record completing construction projects on time and on budget.

Thank you for supporting TriMet's commitment to diversity!

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