The newly constructed Washington/Elizabeth Bridge opens!

Millstone Weber, along with its designer, Parsons, is committed to closing the workforce gap by meeting and exceeding the federal workforce standards of 14.7 percent minority and 6.9 percent women participation per craft, including professional services. These numbers are reported on a monthly basis.

DBE Goals

Millstone Weber is committed to meeting and exceeding the DBE goal of 22 percent for professional services and is on track to meet and exceed the DBE goal of 18 percent for construction services.

Work Zone Safety

I-270 North On-the-Job Training Program Spotlight

The I-270 North Design-Build project is providing training opportunities for a number of minority individuals pursuing careers in construction. In 1990, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) established its On-the-Job Training (OJT) program in an effort to increase workforce diversity and inclusion. As OJT program participants, the MoDOT prime contractors employ minorities, women and economically disadvantaged individuals for teams assigned to MoDOT’s federally funded construction projects. The diversity and inclusion initiative gives minority tradespeople the opportunity to accrue the time and develop the skills needed to graduate from apprenticeships and become journeymen. It also allows minority engineering professionals to learn on the job while completing their required education. The I-270 North Design-Build contractors, Millstone Weber and Parsons have several OJTs on their teams. We are proud to introduce you to two of them in this month’s newsletter.

Quinn Brace is a carpenter building a second career for herself and her family. The single mother walked away from the healthcare field to follow in her family’s footsteps—her three brothers and stepfather are bricklayers. She now works for Millstone Weber as a carpenter in MoDOT’s OJT program on the I-270 North Design-Build project. Ms. Brace began work in June, after completing a union construction pre-apprenticeship.

“My life has changed 180 degrees,” she emphasized. When asked what impact this project has had on her she stated, “There’s an awesome sense of accomplishment to build things. I’ll be able to drive over that bridge someday and say, ‘Hey kids, I built this bridge,’ and they’ll be able to say, ‘I watched my mom. She never gave up. Fear did not stop her.”

Ms. Brace appreciates every reminder of the trade she finally chose to pursue. She said “It’s in those little things, like when I got my first sunburn!”

Cassiana Buehler is currently a fourth year Civil Engineering student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). Cassiana says her experience as a MoDOT OJT is helping her explore her options as a future engineer interested in environmental engineering.

Buehler, a Latina American, is an OJT Transportation Intern for CBB Transportation Engineers + Planners. The UMSL Honors College student learned about the OJT program from Shawn Leight, P.E. Leight is an UMSL transportation engineering professor and CBB’s Vice President and Chief Operations Officer. “CBB had not participated in MoDOT’s trainee program before the I-270 North project. Mr. Leight gave me the chance to be CBB’s first trainee! Now I feel like I have an advantage moving into my career,” Buehler said.

Her on-the-job learning is also benefiting her classroom studies. “In my highway engineering class, we’re discussing traffic signal timing, and here I already have six months experience with traffic planning! It’s cool to see the application of what we’re discussing in the classroom out in the field.”