

# Minnesota Department Of Transportation Office of Civil Rights Announces Holte Contracting Inc., as the Disadvantage Business Enterprise and Lunda Construc- tion Company and Mathiowetz Construction Company as Our Contractor of the Year Award 2009



BY Orlanda Klinkhammer

The Mn/DOT Office of Civil Rights has selected Holte Contractor Inc., as the 2009 DBE Contractor of the Year and Lunda Construction Company., and Mathiowetz Construction Company were selected as the Prime Contractors of the Year.

The Office of Civil Rights initiated these annual awards in 2006 to recognize DBE contractors and Prime contractors that have excelled in promoting the principles of the Federal DBE Program.

## Prime Contractor of the Year 2008

To qualify for the Prime Contractor award a contractor must meet the following criteria:

**Making a commitment** Meets the Good Faith Effort requirements of the Federal Program regulations in contracting with DBE firms on federally funded projects. The contractor must also perform effective recruitment and retention activities in the hiring of women and minorities and meeting or exceeding the Federal On-the Job Training and state employment goals.

**Creating a level playing field** Employs business practices which embody the objectives of the Federal DBE and OJT Program regulations by creating a level playing field where DBE firms can compete fairly for the company's subcontracts, and where women and minorities have equal employment opportunities.

**Assisting DBEs in business development** Contracts with DBEs not only on federally funded contracts with DBE goals, but more importantly on projects that have no federal funding and are outside the DBE program.

**non-discriminatory Practices** follows non-discriminatory business practices in both contracting and employment.

**Achievements:** Lunda Construction Company has made increased efforts to meet and exceed many DBE goals including , i.e. Goal of 14.50 Achieved 20%; Goal 4.00% Achieved 4.20%; Goal of 4.80% Achieved 6.53%; Goal of 1.00% Achieved 2.80%.



Dennis Behnkee  
Lunda Construction  
Mary Prescott Mn/DOT

**Mathowitz Construction Company** continues to be committed to stepping up their efforts including , i.e. Goal of 8.20% Achieved 9.40%; Goal of 3.50% Achieved 3.70; Goal of 1.30% Achieved 4.50%.



Bret Mathiowetz  
Mathiowetz Const.  
Mary Prescott  
Mn/DOT

## DBE Contractor of the Year 2009

In order to qualify for the DBE award, a DBE company must meet the following criteria:

**Perseverance** A commitment to business development despite ongoing obstacles facing small businesses owned by women and minorities in the construction industry.

**Integrity** Upholding the spirit and principles of the federal DBE program regulations in terms of meeting the DBE certification standard and in performing work on projects in accordance with DBE regulations.

## Ethics

Displaying high professional standards and integrity in work.

## Knowledge

Having the ability to exhibit exceptional knowledge of the highway construction industry.

**Achievements:** Diane Holte continues to take an active role anyway she can to assist the further development of DBEs and the DBE program. She has been a key partner in the DBE and Workforce Development Collaborative Effort.



Diane Holte  
Holte Contracting Inc.

Right Helen Baker with Golden Valley Transfer  
Below from left to right:  
Barbara Harden, Olu Osho,  
Belinda Schroeder, Mary Tufts,  
Helen Baker



During our acknowledgements it seemed only fitting to acknowledge Helen Baker; who passed away this year. Helen ran Golden Valley Transfer. Helen she was a caring person who extended her help too many trucking startups. She was the spark, the brain-child and the energy behind forming