



TRADEPOINT
ATLANTIC

EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY

TradePoint Atlantic Celebrates Second Empowerment Academy Graduation Advancing Economic Diversity and Small Business Growth in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD (January 9, 2025) – TradePoint Atlantic, a strategic commercial gateway and supply chain leader in the Baltimore region is proud to announce the graduation of the second cohort of nine small businesses from its Empowerment Academy. This is another milestone highlighting TradePoint Atlantic’s commitment to fostering economic inclusion and empowering small businesses to achieve sustainable growth.



Launched in Summer 2023, the Empowerment Academy is designed to provide minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses with the tools, knowledge, and connections to thrive in today’s competitive marketplace. Through an intensive two-month program, participants receive expert-led training in marketing, accounting, workforce development, and human resources, while building relationships with TradePoint Atlantic’s extensive network of clients and vendors.

"The Empowerment Academy reflects our dedication to creating pathways to prosperity for small businesses," said **Kerry Doyle**, Managing Director of TradePoint Atlantic. "This graduating class embodies the spirit of resilience, innovation, and growth that defines Maryland’s

entrepreneurial community. We are honored to support these businesses as they position themselves for long-term success."

"This program goes beyond training—it transforms opportunities into outcomes," said **Jayson Williams**, CEO of Mayson-Dixon Companies. "The Empowerment Academy equips our small participating businesses to grow and thrive, driving innovation, diversity, and economic impact across Maryland. I'm honored to join Tradepoint Atlantic in celebrating this graduating cohort and their role in moving our communities forward."

"Tradepoint Atlantic continues to be a catalyst for growth with their Empowerment Academy, representing an incredible opportunity to empower businesses and strengthen Maryland's economy by tapping into the immense potential of our diverse workforce and entrepreneurial talent," said **Y. Maria Martinez**, Special Secretary, Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs. "This initiative is not just about economic development—it's about creating equitable pathways for all Marylanders to thrive."

The graduating class includes businesses from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County, and Montgomery County. Participants represented a diverse cross-section of industries such as construction, logistics, design, and engineering. This group included eight minority-owned businesses, six women-owned businesses, one veteran-owned business, and five businesses with multiple ownership types, showcasing Maryland's rich enterprising spirit and diversity.

The following businesses comprise the second graduation cohort of the Tradepoint Atlantic Empowerment Academy, their participation in the program began on September 13, 2024:

- Blackstone Materials
- Capital Logistics
- Cavalla Construction
- D.W. Kozera
- IronShore Contracting
- Lombard Exteriors
- Luna Concrete
- Mud Stew Photography & Design
- Plexus Group

For additional information on the Empowerment Academy and for business owners interested in applying for a future cohort visit www.tpaempowermentacademy.com or contact Brian S. Bailey, Executive Director at bbailey@tradepointatlantic.com or (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.