



TRADEPOINT
ATLANTIC

EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY

TradePoint Atlantic Empowerment Academy Announces Fall 2024 Cohort

Program Launched In 2023 To Boost Minority, Veteran, And Women-Owned Small Businesses

BALTIMORE, MD (September 12, 2024) —TradePoint Atlantic, a strategic commercial gateway and supply chain leader in the Baltimore region is proud to announce nine small businesses that have been accepted into the Fall 2024 Empowerment Academy.

These businesses represent the second cohort selected for this initiative since its launch in the summer of 2023. This announcement follows the success of the inaugural group of twelve businesses, which previously completed the Empowerment Academy and were recognized during a [graduation ceremony](#) in January 2024.

The Empowerment Academy is an initiative led by TradePoint Atlantic representing a substantial investment and commitment to historically disadvantaged businesses. Through this two-month program from mid-September through early-November, minority, veteran, and women-owned small businesses 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.

"The Empowerment Academy is a thoughtful investment in our community and in elevating the future of minority, veteran, and women-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs," said **Aaron Tomarchio, TradePoint Atlantic Executive Vice President – Corporate Affairs**. "Through their participation, these dedicated and driven entrepreneurs will be equipped with essential tools and enduring partnerships that we hope will contribute to the long-term success of their businesses and the Baltimore region's economy."

Each business owner in the Empowerment Academy will engage in a curriculum designed to promote sustained long-term growth for their business and enhance their contributions to the region's economy. The program focuses on critical areas such as human resources management, fiscal responsibility, workforce engagement, financial strategies, procurement, marketing excellence, and leadership development.

TradePoint Atlantic is proud to announce the following businesses chosen for the Empowerment Academy cohort, which will begin on September 13, 2024:

- Blackstone Materials
 - African American Veteran-Owned Small Business

- Capital Logistics
 - African American-Owned Small Business

- Cavalla Construction
 - African American Woman-Owned Small Business

- D.W. Kozera
 - Woman-Owned Small Business

- IronShore Contracting
 - African American-Owned Small Business

- Lombard Exteriors
 - African American-Owned Small Business

- Luna Concrete
 - Hispanic-Owned Small Business

- Mud Stew Photography & Design
 - Woman-Owned Small Business

- Plexus Group
 - Hispanic-Owned Small Business

The majority of the businesses are based in Baltimore County and Baltimore City, with one each from Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties.

"Creating new opportunities, driving inclusive growth, and empowering a diverse group of businesses is a key part of Tradepoint Atlantic’s commitment to the region," said **Kerry Doyle, Tradepoint Atlantic Managing Director**. "We look forward to welcoming this second cohort of business leaders to the program and to fostering future opportunities for success."

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.