



**COMMUNITY MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ INITIATIVE**

4201 Ed Bluestein Blvd, Suite 2106; Austin TX 78721

Phn: (512) 928-8180, Fax: (512) 928-8181

E-mail us: [Admin@CMPI-Austin.org](mailto:Admin@CMPI-Austin.org)



*Newsletter 2008 #3*

*Creating and promoting sustainable initiatives which will increase communication and foster diverse relationships; adding value to our Greater Austin Community; and to the State of Texas.*

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

As CMPI endeavors to search for people who desire to have a mentor to help them grow their business, we are asking questions. It is essential to understand the needs of people before you can serve them. Today one question is, how are our students being prepared and educated to become our future business owners? They may be the owners of the local, small, minority and women-owned business in the future? It is clear that two of the challenges our community faces are an insufficient skilled workforce and students dropping out of high school. To help expand the number of businesses in our community our Public Education System and its success are critical. We must focus on all students and find the solutions necessary for them to be productive in our society, as a business owner, skilled worker, parent or citizen. Thank you to each and all of you who are working to break down and overcome the barriers and gaps that exist in our great community.

**Our future is at stake.**

**Sincerely yours, Steve Swanson**

During this quarter, CMPI continued to facilitate a series of meetings with community partners and interested parties to focus on how we, as a larger community, can help resolve workforce related concerns. During these meetings at Workforce, there was a consensus that there many diverse but yet inter-related areas that lead to concerns over unacceptable rates of student drop outs from high school. There is a need for them to have necessary work skills and ethics to enter the workforce in construction and related trades. Please let us know if you are, or know of an organization that would like to participate in helping to find sustainable solutions. Workforce Solutions provides many valuable services to the Austin area <http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/>

Another successful endeavor is our joint hosting of a City wide event where local construction firms met and had an opportunity to meet with City purchasing agents and network with some 100 other business owners.

**We are proud to recognize one of our Protégés. Laura Culin is owner of the Austin Lumber Company. Her mentor is John Braun, President of Braun-Butler Construction. John has supported CMPI for years.** Laura has been recovering from a devastating fire several years ago that destroyed a large part of her business. In this process, she needed to not only rebuild her facilities, but managed to stay in business as it was being rebuilt. Laura has been a very active participant in many community programs, and will be the next President of the Austin Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction. Her new product lines include a strong focus on “green” building processes and renewable construction materials. Please visit her location at 2415 E 5TH. ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78702 PHONE: (512) 476-5534 FAX (512) 476-8337. she is also a certified HUB Feel free to visit her or go to her web site [www.austinlumbercompany.com](http://www.austinlumbercompany.com) - for green details

**WANT TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN?**

**VISIT [HTTP://WWW.CI.AUSTIN.TX.US/SBDP/ABOUTSBDP.HTM](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sbdp/aboutsbdp.htm)**

**OR CONTACT THE CITY FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT:**

**Phone: 512-974-7800; Fax: 512-974-7601 Vendor Registration: 512-974-2018 or 3349**

**Contact our offices if you have any questions or would like more information.**

**Please contact us if you know of a firm that would be interested in becoming a partner.**