

FIRST DRAFT

CONTACT:

Fred Feiner, Yankee PR
fred@yankeep.com
800-977-1910

**NYC School Contractors Begin Classes at CCNY in Harlem as
SCA and NobleStrategy Launch New Educational Initiative**
Program Targets Minority, Women-Owned and Locally-Based Enterprises

NEW YORK (April 5, 2011) – Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor of the [New York City Department of Education](#), yesterday joined with public and private sector leaders to launch the [NYC School Construction Authority's](#) (SCA) Advanced Mentor Training Program, a new training initiative for Minority, Women-Owned and Locally-Based Enterprises (M/W/LBEs) who are currently participating in the SCA's Mentor program. [NobleStrategy](#), a construction management and training firm, in partnership with City College of New York (CCNY), is managing the year-long program, which will provide courses for up to 80 contractors at the college's Harlem campus.

“The SCA's mentor program is nationally renowned for its innovative public-private partnership, but today it has reached a new plateau,” said Grimm. “In government it is rare that you can select and develop long-term relationships with your partners, but that is exactly what the Advanced Mentor Training Program allows the city to accomplish.”

Lorraine Grillo, President, SCA; Rev. Jacques DeGraff, Chairperson, SCA Diversity Board; _____, CCNY; and William S. Parrish, Jr., President & CEO, NobleStrategy; joined Grillo for the program's launch.

“We fund this program because it makes sense economically for the City of New York and it makes sense for the SCA,” said Grillo. “But just as important is the fact that it is the right thing to do. It is in everyone's best interests to increase the ability of contractors to continue to thrive in a business environment once they graduate out of the Mentor Program.”

The program provides contractors who have advanced through the SCA's four-year mentor program, with training designed to ensure their success once they leave the supportive structure of the SCA program. NobleStrategy and CCNY manage the Advanced Mentor Training Program in partnership with [URS Corporation](#), [DACK Consulting](#) and [Inspire Enterprise](#).

“The Advanced Mentor Training Program is a truly unique educational initiative, a first for the SCA and CCNY,” said Parrish. “These 80 contractors are now not just business owners, but students as well. They will be different from the other CCNY students in that they are also managing a business. They are here to learn to earn and to help ensure their continued success when they graduate from the mentor program.”

The program consists of six training modules, including Project Management, Financial Management, Safety Management, Legal Affairs, Organizational Management and Leadership

Skills. The contractors started spring classes today at the 138th Street and Convent Avenue campus.

Contractors who participate in the SCA's four-year mentor program will achieve:

- Experience working on SCA projects;
- Technical assistance and training;
- General business, organizational and personnel skills development;
- Marketing and business development;
- Fast track payment systems; and
- Access to working capital and bonding

A key component of the program is that it targets smaller construction contracts – typically ranging from \$80,000 to \$750,000 – for M/W/LBE participation. The SCA hires construction managers not only to ensure that all projects are completed safely, on time and within budget, but also to mentor and provide technical assistance to participating firms.

About the New York City School Construction Authority

The [New York City School Construction Authority](#) (SCA) was established by the New York State Legislature in December 1988 to build new public schools and manage the design, construction and renovation of capital projects in New York City's more than 1,200 public school buildings, half of which were constructed prior to 1949.

About NobleStrategy

With offices in Harlem, Long Island City and Newark, N.J., [NobleStrategy](#) is a certified M/S/DBE professional construction resource focused on delivering premium solutions to public and private entities in the K-12 and higher education sectors. Our firm employs licensed professionals in construction safety and project management, as well as trained business managers in strategies and solutions required in the delivery of complex construction projects. For more information, please visit www.noblestrategy.com or call (973) 622-2229 or (212) 690-4370.

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