



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY CONGRATULATES FIRMS GRADUATING FROM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY HACIA

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway celebrates the leaders of the 13 firms to graduate from its Technical Assistance Program administered by the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA) Scholarship & Education Foundation at locations in Chicago and Aurora.

The Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program graduates will be recognized for their accomplishments on Thursday, October 24, at a ceremony in Aurora. The graduating firms include 13 Chicago-area firms from various industries, including general construction management, electrical, landscaping, highway construction, information technology and trucking.

Juan Galvan, 2 Eagles Inc. – West Chicago
Yvonne Aguilera, CXA Utilities Inc. – Joliet
Susana Prado, Gacru Inc. – Rolling Meadows
Shaunte Porter, Grade A Development LLC – Westchester
Hazin Hood, HD Construction Group Inc. – Chicago
Lorena Galvez, Jakalo Trucking Inc. – Carpentersville
Pedro Guererro, Jennifer Construction Inc. – Aurora
Keith L. Gerald, KLG Technology Advisors LLC – Aurora
Ricardo Martinez, Martinez Frogs Inc. – Franklin Park
Ellory West, Molite Electric Inc – Chicago
Roberto Orozco, Rozco Landscaping Inc. – Hannover Park
Carl DeJohnette, RU Current Inc. – Aurora
Yogesh Shah, SYNC-Power Services Inc. – Hannover Park

The Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program prepares emerging and established transportation-related construction firms including disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned firms, as well as veteran-owned and small businesses, to participate as prime contractors and subcontractors on highway and vertical construction contracts, including the Tollway 15-year, \$14 billion *Move Illinois* capital program.

As a result of the Tollway's investment, more than 1226 bids total have been submitted by clients since 2017, including nearly 335 bids on Tollway projects. These bids submitted on Tollway projects have resulted in 26 firms winning bids as prime or subcontractors in 2017, 59 contracts in 2018 and 25 firms winning bids as prime or subcontractors on 16 contracts to date in 2019.

Participants in the Technical Assistance Program receive comprehensive, customized business development assistance to build financial understanding and business plan development for increased business stability and growth in the transportation-related construction industry. Services are customized to the assessed strengths, challenges and needs of participating firms. This includes education, guidance and feedback on general business and construction-specific operations, including strategic planning and assistance with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) pre-qualification application.

Each participant in the program administered by HACIA Scholarship & Education Foundation must earn annual revenue of at least \$450,000 and have a minimum of five years in business with subcontractor

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experience on major highways, roads, bridges or vertical construction projects, as well as moderate computer skills and proficiency in blueprint reading, general documents and specifications.

The HACIA Scholarship & Education Foundation is one of seven organizations that the Tollway partners with on the Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program. The program is designed to assist businesses gain the experience and expertise to handle more complex projects while increasing the pool of contractors available to perform work on Tollway projects. There are a total of 12 locations providing technical assistance for emerging businesses in Chicago, Cook County, the south suburbs and Rockford.

About the HACIA Scholarship & Education Foundation

The HACIA Scholarship & Education Foundation (HACIA SEF) is a non-profit 501c(3) organization whose mission is to provide on-going training and educational services to businesses and their employees in the construction related industry. HACIA SEF strives to promote awareness of professional career opportunities and continues to raise the bar in its goal to promote the future leaders in the fields of technology, architecture, engineering, construction & professional services industries. HACIA SEF believes all qualified construction business should have equal access to opportunities and education in their industry.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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