



U.S. Small Business Administration

SANTA ANA DISTRICT OFFICE

News Release

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Carla J. Whitehead, President of CJW Construction, Inc., Selected as the 2017 8(a) Graduate of the Year

*8(a) Graduate, HUBZone Certified, and Women-Owned firm provides
design-bid-build construction services*

SANTA ANA, Calif. - The U.S. Small Business Administration, Santa Ana, District Office has selected Carla J. Whitehead, President of Santa Ana-based CJW Construction, Inc. (CJW) as the 2017 8(a) Graduate of the Year. Whitehead was nominated for this award by Tammy Harvey, Office Manager at CJW and her fellow coworkers who are all proud to work at CJW.

Today, CJW is an 8(a) Graduate, HUBZone Certified, and Women Owned successful general construction company, employing 36 employees. Whitehead has built CJW over the past 16 years, with approximately 165 completed projects to date. With determination and assistance from the SBA through its government certification programs, the majority of those projects were performed as a general contractor as she forged through the complex federal procurement system, winning contracts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, NASA, U.S. Army Reserves, Department of Veteran Affairs and various other local, state and federal municipalities.

Whitehead started CJW in 2001 to apply her 20+ years of experience in the general construction industry. She was able to apply all her experience in construction of new residences, commercial buildings, structures, bridges and roadways. Her wide ranging skillset has been invaluable to increase efficiency of projects and enhanced communications with various agencies. The scope of her projects range in complexity and value from \$12k to over \$26 MM. CJW's capabilities extend to heavy civil work primarily dredging and the cleanout of rivers and channels in Southern California. In addition to possessing the technical proficiency and demonstrated experience to provide construction services, CJW takes special pride in its focus on several key project elements essential to the successful execution of construction projects which include Safety, Quality, Teamwork and Integrity.

Whitehead honed her entrepreneurial roots in Santa Ana, CA and because she wholeheartedly believes in supporting the local community she still maintains an office in a HUBZone in Santa Ana. Carla Whitehead will be recognized and receive her award as the 8(a) Graduate of the Year at the local Small Business Week Awards program which will be held Friday, June 9th from 10:30 am until 2:00 pm at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. The event is being hosted by the Orange County Hispanic Chamber

of Commerce. For more information on the event or to register, email events@ochcc.com or call 714.953.4289.

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About Small Business Week

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. As part of National Small Business Week, the agency takes the opportunity to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners and others at local events around the country. Every day, these individuals are working to grow small businesses, create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness. For more information, please visit www.sba.gov/nsbw/nsbw.