

NEWS

INFO

BIDS



Volume 41, Edition 44E • October 30, 2025



Published by SBE, Inc. • DBE/MBE/SBE

Writing Professor Is Also Professional Welder to work: Howe's Welding and Metal Fabrication.

By Jo Mackiewicz

in the United States.

Although I have a good gig as a full professor at Iowa State University, I've daydreamed about learning a trade—something that required both my mind and my hands.

So in 2018, I started night courses in welding at Des Moines Area Community College. For three years, I studied different types of welding and during the day worked on a book about the communication between welding teachers and students. I wasn't the only woman who became interested in trades work during this time. Recognizing the good pay and job security, United States women have moved in

greater numbers into skilled trades such as welding and fabrication within the past ten years. From 2017 to 2022, the number of women in trades rose from about 241,000 to nearly 354,000. That's an increase of about 47 percent. Even so, women still constitute just 5.3 percent of welders

When I received my diploma in welding in May 2022, I'd already found the place I wanted I'd met the owner, Jim Howe, when I visited his three-man shop in Ames, Iowa, in January 2022 for research on a second book about communication in skilled trades. Howe's shop focuses on repairs and one-off

fabrication, not large-scale production of single items. Under Howe's tutelage, I've fabricated skis for the machines that make the rumble strips in the road, shepherd's hooks for bird feeders, fence poles, and stainless-steel lampshade frames. I've repaired trailers, wheelchair ramps, office chairs, and lawn mowers. Both my experience at Howe's and my research at nine other fabrication facilities in Iowa have shown

me that—at least for the time being—tradeswomen must find workarounds for commonly encountered challenges. Some of these challenges are physical. These could include being unable to easily reach or move necessary material and tools. Or they could be emotional, such as encountering sexism. As I explore in my forthcoming book, Learning Skilled Trades in the Workplace, this is true even in a welcoming environment like Howe's shop,



where I work with a supportive and helpful boss Being a tradeswoman means being scrutinized

for competence. One of the tradeswomen that I interviewed for the book told me this story about

Click to read more Small Business Exchange • Voice of Small, Emerging, Diversity-Owned Businesses Since 1984



George Harms Construction is seeking DBE/ESBE vendors, subcontractors **Click for details**



Click for details



SBE OUTREACH SERVICES With over 1.6 million businesses in our active database—the country's largest non-public

diversity database—SBE sets the professional standard for diversity outreach across the

nation. For more than four decades, we have served small businesses, prime contractors, and agencies—with proven results. Advertisements Placed in various Small Business Exchange Northeast digital publications each month,

and at www.sbenortheast.com

Fax, Email, and Postal Solicitations Targeted mailings sent to businesses chosen according to your criteria

Live Call Center Follow-Up Telephone follow-up calls using a script of five questions that you define **Computer Generated Reports**

Complete documentation that will fit right into your proposal, along with a list of interested firms to contact

Special Services Custom design and development of services that you need for particular situations such as small business marketing, diversity goal

completion, and agency capacity building

Call for more information: 800-800-8534









Development

USDOT Bonding



2025MWBEForum@esd.ny.gov

The BEP is a hands-on, multi-component training designed to address what businesses need to do to become Bond-ready, as well as one-on-one sessions with local surety bonding professionals to help in assembling the materials necessary for a complete bond application.

Advantages of the program include: Early Bird Application Interactive seminars · In-depth materials on surety bond procurement assistance Connect with Primes for Infrastructure Project Opportunities

Free of Cost Email: SBTRC@Lagcc.cuny.edu This program has helped secure over \$32MM in Bond Capacity

And much more

from our five BEPs (2020-2024) **OUR Partners and Collaborators**

LAGUARDIA CU









Placed in various Small Business Exchange Northeast digital publications each month, and

that you need for particular situations such as small business marketing, diversity goal completion, and agency capacity building

Call for more information: 800-800-8534

Custom design and development of services

Advertisements

at www.sbenortheast.com Special Follow-Up Services





whomever

agencies

contractors

diversity firms

you need to

reach among

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 12:00 pm-1:30 pm

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the

basics of navigating the federal contracting

Contact: Irenè Gonzalez, 208-334-1673,

irene.gonzalez@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-smallbusinesses-tickets-1133412921559

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small





TRAVELERS



vvv@sbeinc.com

Timed Documentation

For more info contact Valerie Voorhies at

Customized Reports Available

Are you a woman owner of a small business?

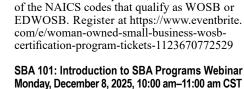
the self-certification process, and a discussion

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration,

This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island

The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting

dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of



Rhode Island District Office

brian.hopkins@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Online

District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses.

Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575,

This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network-

Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free workshop webinar at https://www.sba.gov/event/73913



CORPORATE OFFICE

1160 Battery Street East, Suite 100 San Francisco, California 94111

Tel 800-800-8534 Fax 415-778-6255

www.sbenortheast.com sbe@sbeinc.com • www.sbeinc.com Copyright © 2025 Small Business Exchange, Inc.