

Re: Supplemental Letter for FY2020 Semi-Annual (September 1, 2020-February 28, 2021)
HUB Report for Agency Number 783

The University of Houston (UH) was the recipient of the INSIGHT into Diversity Jesse L. Moore 2021 Supplier Diversity Award. INSIGHT into Diversity recognizes institutions for taking proactive steps in supporting and engaging with minority-owned businesses through supplier diversity offices, unique programs, and leading initiatives. What made UH competitive for the Jesse L. Moore Supplier Diversity Award are the innovative strategies implemented by the HUB Operations Department. For example, the HUB Operations Department (HOD) in partnership with the UH Construction Management (CM) Department and National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) created the Construction Management Talent Pipeline program. The Construction Management Talent Pipeline program provides classes for HUBs interested in transitioning from a subcontractor to a prime contractor on UH and other construction projects. The inaugural class was held in October 2020. Program graduates received 32-hours of instruction and opportunities for mentor-protégé arrangements. Another innovative strategy launched by HOD was the Ready, Willing & Able Virtual Matchmaking Event. HOD recognizes effective business networking is about creating trusting relationships. The purpose of the Ready, Willing & Able event held in February 2021 was to help foster new HUB-General Contractor relationships and diversify the pool of qualified HUBs that GCs will more readily consider for current and/or future subcontracting opportunities.

The HUB Operations Department also seeks to address missed opportunities for HUBs to grow their business. For example, HOD hosted a Purchasing Cooperative Workshop to increase HUBs knowledge about the benefits of being a part of a purchasing cooperative. Additional HUB outreach to help increase HUB knowledge about contracting opportunities with UH included participation at the following events:

- Greater Houston Business Procurement (Monthly) Forums
- Asian Chamber of Commerce Conference
- Tri-County Regional Black Chamber of Commerce-Meet & Greet Events
- Texas Association of African-American Chambers Conference
- SBDA-Houston Business Matchmaking Event