



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: The Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950

City of Columbia's Mentor Protégé Program Serves as Catalyst for Small Businesses Kick off Meeting Scheduled for May 6th

In November 2007, the City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities, in partnership with the SC Minority Business Enterprise Center, introduced the Mentor Protégé Program. The Mentor-Protégé Program provides an additional option for small, minority and women-owned business enterprises to develop and expand in all areas of water/sewer construction. The program partners experienced and successful General Contractors with small, minority and women-owned business enterprises in an effort to increase skills, gain experience, and improve the overall economic climate for those businesses.

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities and the SC Minority Business Enterprise Center is gearing up to kick off the Mentor Protégé Program. **The Kick off Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m., at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, located at 2101 Walker-Solomon Way, Columbia, S.C.**

During this meeting, business development experts will be available to answer questions and distribute information about the program. We invite all of our local businesses to attend this meeting and help us make Columbia an even better place to live, work and prosper. Please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950 or email vsogleaton@columbiasc.net if you have any questions or would like to RSVP for the meeting.