

## Many Community Colleges Forge Ahead With Major Expansions

[ Article was originally posted on [www.constructconnect.com](http://www.constructconnect.com) ]

By Mary Scott Nabers,

COVID-19 continues to take its toll on America. Students of all ages will soon begin fall classes, and school officials are scrambling to ensure safety.

Education leaders appear to be in total agreement about how to deliver instruction. Students will be taught through both online and in-person classes. And, as preparations are made to implement every possible safety precaution, educational leaders will struggle to prioritize spending. Some schools will have huge funding issues while others will have more flexibility.

Community colleges have experienced massive support throughout the country over the past decade. Millions of students benefit from being able to take courses while managing jobs, families, and other responsibilities. High schools have partnered with community colleges to help young students participate in college courses before graduation. There is total consensus that community colleges contribute greatly in preparing individuals for jobs as well as careers that lead to course work at other institutions of higher education.

COVID-19, however, has definitely impacted community colleges. And, it is puzzling and sad to see that some community colleges have extremely dire financial issues while others are announcing new construction, expansions, and impressive collaborative initiatives with private-sector partners.

Community colleges in Wyoming have been forced to cut millions from their budgets. On June 27, the Northern Wyoming Community College District, as a result of budget cuts, announced major reductions to athletic programs. In a similar action, officials at both Gillette College and Sheridan College announced cuts that also include the elimination of sports programs. Such decisions are as painful for school officials and sports enthusiasts as they are for students.

Community college leaders in Michigan also are cutting budgets. Officials at Lansing Community College recently announced furloughs for employees, elimination of fall athletics, and suspension of the college's radio and television division.



These cuts were made to address a \$10 million budget deficit.

But, many other community colleges are expanding and have recently announced numerous types of capital improvement projects. These efforts provide encouragement for the future of education in our country.

### Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Board of Education, in June, voted to approve a new community college in Eris County. Preparations will include naming board members, selecting a president and a campus site, and securing funding for construction projects. The county plans to use its share of casino gaming revenue for the community college and also contributed revenue from the Erie Community Foundation. Additional funding could come from the General Assembly of Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. There is excitement from all sources about the new school.

### Maryland

Howard Community College in Columbia has prioritized a five-year, \$101 million project which includes the construction of a new math and athletics complex. Plans in the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget call for other projects as well. The state of Maryland and Howard County will contribute funding. A second phase of plan-

ning and design will follow this year. Three more phases of construction are planned for the next three years, and those costs are projected to average out at about \$26 million for each year. Another \$25.8 million has been set aside to cover construction of three parking garages.

### Delaware

As part of its Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget, Delaware Technical Community College in Dover lists \$52.4 million in critical deferred maintenance needs. In FY 2021 and 2022, the budget sets aside \$16 million and \$11.2 million, respectively, for renovations, water intrusion mitigation, and replacement of roofs and air handlers on campus buildings. The capital budget also outlines plans to expand the parking garage at its campus in Wilmington.

### California

A draft facility master plan unveiled recently for the North Orange County Community College District in southern California outlines numerous large-scale construction and renovation projects at three campuses. Large-scale projects are projected to cost more than \$30 million.

The Cypress College campus facilities draft plan calls for renovating two of its tech buildings and



# California Sub-Bid Request Ads



Is requesting quotes from certified and qualified DBE and DVBE Subcontractors, Suppliers, and Service Providers for the following (but not limited to) work:

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**FOR CONSTRUCTION ON STATE HIGHWAY IN  
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SOUTH JUNCTION ROUTE 178**

**In District 09 On Route 178**

**Contract No. 09-363404**

**DVBE GOAL 3%**

**REVISED BID DATE: July 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

All Quotes Due Prior

**Sukut Construction, LLC**

4010 W. Chandler Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92704

Contact: Rick Welshiemer

Phone: (714) 540-5351 • Fax: (714) 545-2003 • Email: [estimating@sukut.com](mailto:estimating@sukut.com)

Plans/specs are available for viewing at our office by appointment, by Sukut FTP, or from Owner. Subcontractors must be prepared to furnish 100% performance and payment bonds and possess current insurance and workers' comp coverage. Sukut will assist qualified subcontractors in obtaining bonds, insurance, and/or lines of credit. Subcontractors/Vendors will be required to sign Sukut's Standard Subcontract/Purchase Order. Copies are available for examination.

Please contact Rick Welshiemer at Sukut Construction for assistance in responding to this solicitation.

Sukut Construction's listing of a Subcontractor in its bid to the agency is not to be construed as an acceptance of all the Subcontractor's conditions or exceptions included with Subcontractor's price quotes. Quotations must be valid for the same duration as specified by Owner for contract award.

**Sukut Construction, LLC**  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

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[kromero777@gmail.com](mailto:kromero777@gmail.com)  
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Website: [www.sbeinc.com](http://www.sbeinc.com)  
Phone: (415) 778-6250, (800) 800-8534  
Fax: (415) 778-6255

**Publisher of**  
Small Business Exchange  
weekly newspaper

D'Arcy & Harty Construction, Inc  
(415) 822-5200 ph (415) 822-0747 Fx  
Estimator : [willie@darcyhart.com](mailto:willie@darcyhart.com)

**West County Wastwater  
Priority Sewer Replacement Area 1  
Bids: July 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM**

**West County Wastwater  
Priority Sewer Replacement Area 4  
Bids: July 30, 2020 at 2:00 PM**

**West County Wastwater  
Priority Sewer Replacement Area 6,7& 8  
Bids: August 14, 2020 at 2:00 PM**

**West County Wastwater  
Priority Sewer Replacement Area 5  
Bids: August 21, 2020 at 2:00 PM**

DBE sub- bids requested for:  
Saw-cutting, Trucking, Precast Concrete  
Manhole Supply, HDPE & PVC pipe supply  
Plans & specs are available  
to view upon request.

**CAHILL CONTRACTORS LLC & NIBBI  
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SELECT TRADES ONLY:**

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**HUNTERS VIEW BLOCKS 14 & 17 -  
EARLY TRADES**

Middle Point Road, San Francisco CA

This is an OCII project with construction work-  
force and prevailing wage requirements.

**BID DATE: 7/10/20 @ 2 PM**

**BID DOCUMENTS:** Please contact Colby for  
access to documents on BuildingConnected.

**CONTACT:**

Colby Smith at [estimating@cahill-sf.com](mailto:estimating@cahill-sf.com),  
(415) 677-0611.

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# California Sub-Bid Request Ads



Is requesting quotes from certified and qualified MBE, DBE, WBE, SBE, SBRA, LSAF AND (HUB) Zone Subcontractors, Suppliers, and Service Providers for the following (but not limited to) work:

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**SUPPLIERS/SERVICE**

Aggregate, Rip Rap Mat'l, Conc Pump, Equip Rent - Crane, Pipe - Steel, Pipe PVC, Ready Mix Conc. Struct Steel, Traffic Control Supply, and Security Guard Serv.

**LAKE PUMP STATION WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS,  
LAKE COUNTY  
Project No. 2450.03**

**BID DATE: AUGUST 6, 2020 @ 3:00 PM**

All Quotes Due Prior

**Sukut Construction, LLC**

4010 W. Chandler Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92704

Contact: Eric Bodyfelt

Phone: (714) 540-5351 • Fax: (714) 545-2003 • Email: [estimating@sukut.com](mailto:estimating@sukut.com)

Plans/specs are available for viewing at our office by appointment, by Sukut FTP, or from Owner. Subcontractors must be prepared to furnish 100% performance and payment bonds and possess current insurance and workers' comp coverage. Sukut will assist qualified subcontractors in obtaining bonds, insurance, and/or lines of credit. Subcontractors/Vendors will be required to sign Sukut's Standard Subcontract/Purchase Order. Copies are available for examination. Please contact Eric Bodyfelt at Sukut Construction for assistance in responding to this solicitation.

Sukut Construction's listing of a Subcontractor in its bid to the agency is not to be construed as an acceptance of all the Subcontractor's conditions or exceptions included with Subcontractor's price quotes. Quotations must be valid for the same duration as specified by Owner for contract award.

**Sukut Construction, LLC**  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Ames Construction, Inc. Is seeking qualified DBEs

**Project Name CV Link Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Project - Segment 1**

**Bid/Contract # CVL-2015-0309**

**Awarding Agency Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)**

**Project Location Coachella/Palm Springs/Indio/Palm Desert/La Quinta, Riverside County, CA**

**Bid Date 08/03/2020 at 02:00 PM**

DBE Subs and Suppliers required include but are not limited to: Develop water supply, traffic control, SWPPP, rain event action plan, erosion control, street sweeping, natural resource protection plan, fencing, clear and grub, roadway and structural excavation, pervious backfill material, embankment, subgrade enhancement, landscape, plant establishment, decomposed granite, aggregate base, slurry seal, HMA asphalt, paving, cold plane, JPCP, demo, F&D steel piling, PS CIP concrete, structural concrete, CIDH piling, minor concrete, rebar, architectural treatment, joint seal, shotcrete, pipe RCP, drainage, construction surveys, anti-graffiti coating, object marker, roadside and pedestrian signs, cable railing, pavement striping and marking, electrical, signal and lighting, irrigation, paint bridge, concrete barrier, detectable warning surface, art sculptures, decorative rock, metal railing, shade structure, benches, hydration station, receptacles, bike racks concrete supply, construction materials and trucking. Ames Construction, Inc. will work with subcontractors to breakdown items into economical feasible packages.

Ames will require bidder to provide performance and payment bonds for the full amount of the Subcontract values. Costs of the bonds are to be provided as a separate line item. Please call to discuss how Ames Construction can assist you in your bonding, credit and/or insurance needs. Also, let us know if you need assistance in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, or materials for this project. Ames' Subcontract terms and conditions will apply to any contracts resulting from this request. The Subcontractor, by submission of its bid, agrees to the "Terms and Conditions" including all Exhibits and Attachments of Ames Subcontract Agreement. Ames reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations. For questions about plans, specifications and other contract requirements please contact our office. Contact info provided below. Bids submitted to Ames in response to this RFQ shall remain open and valid until the contract is executed. Ames Construction, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Our contact for this project is Mike Boer at (951) 356-1275 X 1278 or [mikeboer@amesco.com](mailto:mikeboer@amesco.com). Please fax quotes to (951) 549-9003. Plans and specifications can be viewed and downloaded at: <https://ames.sharefile.com/d-s5bd5825278841418>



CAL LIC. NO. 723241

11555 Dublin Boulevard

Dublin, CA 94568-2909

Phone: (925) 803-4333 • FAX: (925) 803-4334

ESTIMATOR: Christopher Pieri

EMAIL: [cpieri@pacificstates.net](mailto:cpieri@pacificstates.net)

Pacific States Environmental Contractors, Inc. (PSEC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below:

**PROJECT:**

**900 INNES REMEDIATION PROJECT**  
Contract No. 1000016646

**OWNER:**

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
1155 Market Street, 4th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**REVISED BID DATE: July 29, 2020 at 2:30pm**

We hereby encourage responsible participation of certified (DBE) Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and (SBE) Small Business Enterprise and solicit their subcontractor or materials and/or suppliers quotation for the following types of work including but not limited to:

**TRUCKING, DEMOLITION, SURVEY,  
ABATEMENT AND OFFSHORE WORK**

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our office located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the City & County of San Francisco Department of Public Works Site: [https://stgint.sfdpw.org/\\_Layouts/DPWPORTAL/Construction.aspx?ID=2217](https://stgint.sfdpw.org/_Layouts/DPWPORTAL/Construction.aspx?ID=2217)

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4334 to the attention of Estimator Christopher Pieri or email [cpieri@pacificstates.net](mailto:cpieri@pacificstates.net). If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 361-1617 When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at [www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html)

If you need support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 361-1617, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center ([www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRC](http://www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRC)). PSEC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the SBE/DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. PSEC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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# California Sub-Bid Request Ads

## DESILVA GATES CONSTRUCTION

11555 Dublin Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909  
Dublin, CA 94568-2909  
(925) 829-9220 / FAX (925) 803-4263  
Estimator: ERIC ALLRED  
Website: [www.desilvagates.com](http://www.desilvagates.com)  
An Equal Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action Employer

DeSilva Gates Construction (DGC)  
is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor  
for the project listed below:

**PAGE MILL ROAD SAFETY  
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**  
CIP No. PE-86070, IFB No. 1179389,  
Federal Project No. STPL 5100(029)  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal  
Assigned is 8%

**OWNER: CITY OF PALO ALTO**  
250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

**Bid Date: JULY 14TH, 2020 @ 3:00 P.M.**

DGC is soliciting quotations from certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, for the following types of work and supplies/materials including but not limited to:

**ADJUST IRON, COLD PLANE, CRACK SEALING, LEAD COMPLIANCE PLAN, MBGR, ROADSIDE SIGNS, SLURRY SEAL, STRIPING, TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS, TRAFFIC CONTROL MATERIAL SUPPLIER, TRAFFIC CONTROL/ENGINEER, TRUCKING, WATER TRUCKS, STREET SWEEPING, HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A) MATERIAL.**

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our offices located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or 7700 College Town Drive, Sacramento, CA, or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the ftp site at <ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com> (if prompted the username is ftp@desilvagates.com and password is f7pa55wd) or from the Owner's site at [http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/asd/planet\\_bids\\_how\\_to.asp](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/asd/planet_bids_how_to.asp)

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4263 to the attention of Estimator Eric Allred. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 829-9220. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at [www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html)

If you need DBE support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 829-9220, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center ([www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs](http://www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs)). DGC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. DGC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## DESILVA GATES CONSTRUCTION

11555 Dublin Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909  
Dublin, CA 94568-2909  
(925) 829-9220 / FAX (925) 803-4263  
Estimator: VICTOR LE  
Website: [www.desilvagates.com](http://www.desilvagates.com)  
An Equal Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action Employer

DeSilva Gates Construction (DGC)  
is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor  
for the project listed below:

**HAZEL AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT -  
PHASE 3**  
**SUNSET AVENUE TO MADISON AVENUE**  
Contract No. 4415,  
Federal Aid Project No. STPL-5924(253)  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal  
Assigned is 12%

**OWNER: COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**  
9660 Ecology Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827

**REVISED BID DATE: August 6th, 2020 @ 2:00 P.M.**

DGC is soliciting quotations from certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, for the following types of work and supplies/materials including but not limited to:

**CLEARING AND GRUBBING/DEMOLITION, COLD PLANE, PROJECT & BUSINESS SIGNS, ELECTRICAL, FENCING, LANDSCAPING/IRRIGATION, MINOR CONCRETE, MINOR CONCRETE STRUCTURE, ROADSIDE SIGNS, SLURRY SEAL, MASONRY WALL, STRIPING, SWPPP PREP/WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN PREPARE, UNDERGROUND, TRUCKING, WATER TRUCKS, STREET SWEEPING, CLASS 2 AGGREGATE BASE MATERIAL, HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A) MATERIAL, RUBBERIZED HMA (GAP GRADE) MATERIAL.**

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our offices located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or 7700 College Town Drive, Sacramento, CA, or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the ftp site at <ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com> (if prompted the username is ftp@desilvagates.com and password is f7pa55wd) or from the Owner's site at <http://www.sacountybids.net/>

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4263 to the attention of Estimator Victor Le. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 829-9220. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at [www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html)

If you need DBE support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 829-9220, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center ([www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs](http://www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs)). DGC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. DGC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## DESILVA GATES CONSTRUCTION

11555 Dublin Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909  
Dublin, CA 94568-2909  
(925) 829-9220 / FAX (925) 803-4263  
Estimator: ERIC ALLRED  
Website: [www.desilvagates.com](http://www.desilvagates.com)  
An Equal Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action Employer

DeSilva Gates Construction (DGC)  
is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor  
for the project listed below:

**CALTRANS RTE 49 FROM 0.1 MILE SOUTH OF  
ROUND VALLEY ROAD TO 0.1 MILE NORTH OF  
QUAIL CREEK DRIVE**  
CONTRACT NO. 03-3H6504  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. ACHSNH-P049(182)E  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal  
Assigned is 17%

**OWNER: STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
1727 30th Street, Bidder's Exchange, MS 26,  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**BID DATE: JULY 23rd, 2020 @ 2:00 P.M.**

DGC is soliciting quotations from certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, for the following types of work and supplies/materials including but not limited to:

**AC DIKE, BIOLOGIST CONSULTANT, CLEARING AND GRUBBING/DEMOLITION, CMP PIPE SUPPLIER, COLD PLANE, EROSION CONTROL, GEOSYNTHETIC REINFORCEMENT FABRIC, MBGR, PIPE LINING, ROADSIDE SIGNS, ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION, RUMBLE STRIP, STRIPING, SWPPP PREP/WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN PREPARE, TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL, TESTING, TESTING TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM, TRAFFIC CONTROL MATERIAL SUPPLIER, VEGETATION CONTROL, TRUCKING, WATER TRUCKS, STREET SWEEPING, CLASS 2 AGGREGATE BASE MATERIAL, HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A) MATERIAL, RUBBERIZED HMA (OPEN GRADE) MATERIAL.**

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our offices located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or 7700 College Town Drive, Sacramento, CA, or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the ftp site at <ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com> (if prompted the username is ftp@desilvagates.com and password is f7pa55wd) or from the Owner's site at [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly\\_ads/all\\_adv\\_projects.php](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/all_adv_projects.php)

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4263 to the attention of Estimator Eric Allred. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 829-9220. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at [www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html)

If you need DBE support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 829-9220, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center ([www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs](http://www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs)). DGC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. DGC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



# Tips for Enhancing Your Veteran-Owned Small Business

[ Article was originally posted on [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) ]

By Larry Stubblefield,

One veteran leading the charge in the small business sector is Chelsea Mandello. After serving as a photojournalist in the Navy for seven years, Mandello started Troopster, a small business dedicated to helping people quickly and efficiently send fresh care packages to their loved ones in the military. With help from her local Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), Mandello has built her business into a thriving enterprise.

Because of their time in the military, veterans like Mandello enter business ownership with many of the qualities essential to entrepreneurial success, like resiliency, resourcefulness, and organization. We encourage veteran business owners to use the following strategies to further enhance your existing acumen and build lasting businesses:

1. Learn entrepreneurship best practices. As a former service member, you are adept at learning new skills rapidly and applying them expertly and precisely. You can do the same in the small business sector by taking advantage of the SBA's educational resources. Start with Boots to Business, a two-day education and training program that helps aspiring transitioning service

members and veteran entrepreneurs learn the fundamentals of business. Next, build on that foundational understanding of business best practices by taking online courses through the SBA Learning Center on topics ranging from social media marketing to pricing strategies.

2. Leverage your network. Consider seizing online and in-person networking opportunities specific to veteran small business owners. LinkedIn groups or Meetup groups for veteran entrepreneurs can be an ideal forum for finding key business connections within the veteran community.
3. Connect with a mentor. Learn from the experience of someone who already has years of successful small business ownership under their belt. You may consider tapping your network to find someone who is the right fit – or you might turn to an SBA resource partner, like your local VBOC or SCORE. These organizations will match you with an experienced mentor who can help you navigate scenarios and challenges you haven't yet faced. Mandello, for example, took advantage of her local VBOC's mentoring services when launching Troopster. She says that, "Without [SBA] mentorship, I don't think we would've come this far this fast."

4. Plan, plan, plan – but be ready to pivot. From your days in the military, you know the importance of planning – but you're also highly adaptable and resourceful. Channel this balance between structure and flexibility into your business venture. While it's essential to have a living business plan that lays out your general path forward, it's also important to be able to roll with the punches and modify your plan as needed.
5. Find a cause or mission. Veterans are often naturally mission-oriented. Finding a way to contribute to your local community or the broader military community – like Mandello did – will help you stay motivated and fulfill your tendency toward altruism.

The skills you learned in the military already give you a leg up in the small business sector. Now, gain a further edge by leveraging SBA small business tools, resources, and guidance. Follow us on Twitter at @SBAgov for more tips and ideas. We look forward to serving you!

#### SOURCE:

<https://www.sba.gov/blog/tips-enhancing-your-veteran-owned-small-business>

## Many Community Colleges Forge Ahead With Major Expansions

■ Continued from page 1

connecting them with a new hallway. The plan also includes construction of a new aquatic center, a student housing project, and a 5.5-acre linear park near the campus. The Fullerton College campus facilities draft plan includes large projects such as demolishing and rebuilding both a gym and a fine arts building.

The North Orange Continuing Education campus draft plan proposes demolishing and rebuilding a parking deck, creating a "New Campus Heart" amphitheater, and demolishing two temporary buildings and constructing a mixed-use building for the California Adult Education Program.

#### Ohio

Columbus State Community College received approval from Franklin County voters in April for a \$300 million bond to support projects in its Columbus State Educational Facilities and Technology Plan. The plan represents a spending amount of \$441 million. Projects

include expansion of a student success hub at a cost of \$37.7 million, a second academic building with projected costs of \$37 million, and a \$36.6 million upgrade of three other buildings.

Additionally, plans are outlined for construction of a \$30 million multi-disciplinary Center for Emerging Technologies, a \$37 million upgrade for classrooms and labs for all STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) areas, a \$32 million project to replace deteriorating one-story buildings on the west side of Columbus Campus; and a \$28 million initiative to improve parking.

#### Oregon

Voters passed a \$121.5 million bond in May for Lane Community College in Oregon. Bond projects include cybersecurity upgrades, security upgrades, the reestablishment of a Workforce Development Center, and construction of a new building to house a dental clinic for health professions programs. The bond package includes funding for purchases of interactive technology

and classroom equipment, development of energy efficiencies, expansion of the Maxwell Student Veterans Center, and construction of a mobile manufacturing/welding lab.

Community colleges not only prepare individuals for good jobs and better careers, but the programs the schools make available also contribute significantly to economic vitality for the regions they serve. That's because any district that has a community college is continually benefitting from a skilled and trained workforce. It provides reason for hope to see that in many states, there will be an abundance of contracting opportunities on college campuses. It is also encouraging to see that the value proposition that community colleges provide is recognized and understood by government and community leaders.

SOURCE: <https://www.constructconnect.com/blog/many-community-colleges-forge-ahead-with-major-expansions>