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**Jeff Knight**  
**JKS Industries, LLC**

Denver Office of Economic Development, Division of Small Business Opportunity (DSBO) would like to thank you for your participation and dedication to the development of the City and County of Denver's Mentor-Protégé Program.

Soon after Mayor Hancock took office in 2011, he convened a Small Business Roundtable to discuss issues and concerns of the local business community. One of the outcomes of this dialogue was the recommendation to implement a mentoring program that would support and assist the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) community. In response to this recommendation, the Construction Empowerment Initiative (CEI) Mentor-Protégé Task Force, working under the DSBO and the OED, was formed in early 2012. The Task Force, comprised of volunteer business leaders, began its work; researching programs of other municipalities, development criteria for participation that would encourage growth, conferring with Denver staff, and developing draft procedures. Their efforts culminated into the development of a Mentor Protégé program that initiates long term, business relationships between and among established, Mentor firms and emerging or developing Protégé firms.

Your participation in the beta test of this program further contributed to the program's strength and for that, the City of Denver is grateful. The efforts put forth by individuals and firms in the development of this program show the depth of commitment and dedication to our City and to the strength of the area's economic well-being.

Denver remains committed to the Mentor-Protégé Program. We look forward to announcing a completed task and to JUMPSTART the program in April 2014. It has been a long but very satisfying process and we are pleased that you shared the journey.

Thank you again for the commitment of your valuable time to this program. We hope that you will continue your tireless commitment to Denver's diverse community and the economic strength of Denver and the broader metro area.

Thank you,

Paul Washington  
Executive Director  
Denver Office of Economic Development

Chris Martinez  
Director  
Denver Office of Economic Development,  
Department of Small Business Opportunity