

# 2023 EXCELLENT 10



## BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE – ALLIED HEALTH CENTER

The 65,500 SF Allied Health Center offers Bates Technical College facilities and training for future administrative and certified medical assistants, dental assistants and denturists, dental laboratory technicians, occupational therapy assistants, phlebotomists, practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants. The \$44M project features the demolition of the 1970s-era West Annex to create a modern learning facility to house the college's Allied Health programs, clinics, learning labs, and other student spaces.



## CAMPFIRE COFFEE

Campfire Coffee is a Tacoma-owned roastery whose ownership is passionate about coffee and is all about the outdoors. Due to its laser-sharp focus on business, it won recent contracts with Trader Joe's, Metropolitan Market, and Walmart-Sam's Club and is expanding into a second downtown Tacoma location as well as a downtown roastery.



## CELEBRITY CAKE STUDIO

Celebrity Cake Studio is a family-owned and operated cake boutique. They have been baking joy into all of their artistically designed cakes and desserts for 23 years! Sisters Odette D'Aniello Mary Ann Quitugua and cousin Wallace Bolo (our "Baker Supreme"), are third-generation bakers who grew up in their family's bakery on Guam. Celebrity Cake Studio has received numerous awards winning Best of Western Washington for many years in a row and various small business accolades.



## DOBBS PETERBILT WESTERN REGION HEADQUARTERS

The 75,000 sq. ft. flagship location will serve as the new western region headquarters for Dobbs Peterbilt. The facility is in a prime location in Sumner on SR 167 and features 18 service bays capable of accommodating 27 trucks, 1,000 sq. ft. of retail space, and 30,000 sq. ft. of parts storage. Dobbs continues its strong dealer growth with over 20 locations across Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, California, and Washington.



## EMISH MARKET

Owners Anatoliy and Maria Zaika, immigrated from Ukraine to Tacoma 15 years ago and first opened their family-owned store in Federal Way, which has relocated to Fife. The specialty supermarket features a bread and pastry bakery, cafe with sandwiches and coffee, and Eastern European goods. Emish Market & Café is a yummy 14,000-square foot grocery store filled with specialty items and serves breakfast and lunch in the new location.

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## LINDA WOMACK

Linda Lee Womack served as the Director of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) – Washington Business Center operated by the City of Tacoma's Community and Economic Development Department, under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce. Since 2016, she has been responsible for targeting minority-owned enterprises with technical and strategic business consulting to increase their capacity to create and retain jobs. Under Womack's leadership, minority-owned businesses in the region secured over \$290 million in contracting and financing opportunities.



## UWT SET COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAMS

UW Tacoma offers several degrees in Computer Science, all recognized for their world class faculty, industry ready students and award-winning production of research. Noteworthy work includes advances in cloud computing, cybersecurity and encryption with first place awards in international competitions focused on machine learning. The new Ph.D. program in Computer Science, which was targeted to begin with three candidates and now has twenty-one will continue to grow. Graduating students are going on to work at tech giants like Microsoft, Boeing, Intel and Amazon, as well as supporting the growth and continued success of local companies like InfoBlox, MultiCare and Namatad, which itself spawned from research at SET.



## WA SBDC & PIERCE COLLEGE: THE BUSINESS COLLABORATIVE

The Business Collaborative is a six-month journey to support 30 small businesses (BIPOC, Women Owned, Veteran Owned, and Spanish Speaking) across Pierce County. The project allocates 450 one-on-one coaching hours to help small business development and economic growth. Additionally, each business participates in events promoting community development, business training, and networking. At the culmination of the intense business coaching cycle, each company was provided custom market intelligence from the WA SBDC and connected to an SBDC advisor for ongoing support and technical assistance.



## WSDOT I-5 TACOMA PROJECT

After two decades, southbound I-5 HOV lane opens from Fife to Tacoma. Construction is complete on 14 area projects that started in 2001. Crews opened the final 3-mile section of southbound Interstate 5 HOV lanes in Pierce County. The new lane connects the existing HOV lane running from Seattle to Fife with the one that stretches from Tacoma to westbound State Route 16 in Gig Harbor. Opening HOV lanes through this corridor creates much needed capacity and provides improved drive times during peak commute hours. HOV lanes help maximize the movement of people, and not just vehicles. In areas where population and traffic volumes continue to increase, such as Pierce County, HOV lanes are an essential tool to help keep people moving.



## WORKFORCE CENTRAL - HIRE PIERCE COUNTY

A partnership of WorkForce Central, Pierce County Economic Development, and Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region, Hire Pierce County: Next Gen Program provided young adults ages 16-24 years old with work experience through a paid internship program. The paid internship placements supported 91 businesses throughout Pierce County in bolstering their workforce while recovering from the pandemic. Through the program, 196 young adults were placed in paid internships in 2022, with 258 young adults enrolled in the program. Of the young adults enrolled in the program, 71.3% were BIPOC and 54.6% were female. The Next Gen Program creates a career pathway to support young adults' progression through the world of work.