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City of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown and Interise Partner to Launch “*Build Up Houston*”
Program to Benefit Small, Local Construction Companies

University of Houston-Downtown, Office of Business Opportunity, and Interise partner to increase the capacity of the small businesses powering Houston’s construction boom

WHO: Mayor Annise D. Parker
Carlecia D. Wright, Director of Office of Business Opportunity
Dr. William V. Flores, President, University of Houston Downtown

WHAT: The City of Houston’s Office of Business Opportunity will be joined by Mayor Annise D. Parker and Dr. William V. Flores to announce launch of “*Build Up Houston*”, the city’s new executive education program designed to build capacity for Houston’s growing construction industry.

WHERE: City Hall
901 Bagby Street
Houston, TX 77002
****press conference to take place in the rotunda**

WHEN: Wednesday, October 29, 2014
Press conference will begin immediately following City Council

DETAILS:

Owners of small businesses in Houston’s construction service industry will soon have access to an award-winning program designed to build their operational capacity, increase revenues, and create sustainable jobs in the region. The City of Houston’s Office of Business Opportunity, University of Houston-Downtown, and Boston based nonprofit, Interise will jointly announce the launch of “*Build Up Houston*” the city’s new executive education program that supports construction companies currently operating and doing business in the City of Houston.

Build Up Houston is a comprehensive seven month program that will cover financial management, marketing and sales, human resources tactics, business strategy development, and access to capital and new contracts. Utilizing an interactive curriculum format, participants will get the tools, know-how, and confidence to take the next step in their own growth trajectories. The program will launch November 18, 2014.

We urge media to attend the press conference to learn more about “*Build Up Houston*” and hear directly from the City of Houston and industry leaders on the importance of building capacity in our region.



The Office of Business Opportunity's Houston Business Solutions Center has begun accepting applications and will close on October 31, 2014.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program or becoming a part of it can learn more at www.houstontx.gov/builduphouston

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

The City of Houston's Office of Business Opportunity (OBO) is committed to creating a competitive and diverse business environment in the City of Houston by promoting the growth and success of local and small businesses through a wide range of services from startup business assistance to certification for established businesses seeking contract opportunities with the City. Through OBO's Houston Business Solutions Center, we provide resources that help with the start-up, sustainability, and growth of businesses. For more information about the Office of Business Opportunity and our suite of services, please visit www.houstontx.gov/obo or call 832-393-0600.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON – DOWNTOWN

The University of Houston – Downtown (UHD) is a publicly-supported, urban university located in Houston's central business district. Since opening its doors in 1974, UHD has grown in mission and service, and now offers baccalaureate degrees in 44 areas and seven master's degree programs. It is considered one of the most ethnically diverse liberal arts institutions in the southwest, a distinction that indicates the student body accurately reflects the Houston community's wealth of cultures, languages and nationalities. Visit www.uhd.edu for more information.

ABOUT INTERISE

Since 2004, Interise has taken an innovative approach to economic development in lower-income communities by helping existing small business owners plan, achieve, and manage the long-term growth of their business. More than 2,100 entrepreneurs in over 36 locations across the country have completed the StreetWise 'MBA'TM curriculum with extraordinary results. Historically, Interise graduates created jobs at nearly 10x the rate of the private sector as a whole. More information can be found at www.interise.org or on Twitter @StreetWiseMBA