

# Changing the Face of the Contracting Industry

*The National Coalition of Women of Color in Construction, Inc.*

*'A Charge to Keep I Have...'*

Most corporations say they are committed to the betterment of society. The National Coalition of Women of Color in Construction, Inc. (NCWCC), Green ECO Scholar Initiative for female veterans, women of color and the underserved communities, has moved beyond rhetoric to reality and has fostered tangible benefits of a true "green" economy. Its goal is to create 10,000 jobs in the region and assist in creating new green entrepreneur businesses.



Kareema Ali-Bowens (right)

"We are committed to corporate citizenship activities focusing on the **next generation** and on the impact that women of color in green careers will have in global recovery efforts," says Kareema Ali-Bowens, cofounder of the Stone Mountain, Georgia-based company.

Indeed, as an official Energy Star Partner, NCWCC BAY Network of Partners is building green environmental models in underserved communities across the country. "We focus on sustainable/green technology and green applications and promote CO2 reduction by developing eco-conscious, competent participants in our programs, lifestyles and business," Ali-Bowens explains.

NCWCC has seen tangible results in several disciplines: Green Manufacturing Products Installation, Energy Solutions Consulting, Green Construction Technology Training, and Integrated Information Technology Solutions.

## Passionate About Changing Lives

Since 2008, NCWCC has served a national audience through the contracting industry's only digital broadcasting network. Topics range

from legislation to policy changes surrounding women-owned businesses and women of color in green careers.

NCWCC is a privately held corporation founded by Maggie Bowens Freeman, who holds a B.S. in Organizational Management, and Gnorla Bowens, who has a B.S. in Applied Management. The women operate CECI Services, a 24-year-old, family-owned construction service firm in Georgia.

The company subsequently recruited Margaret Garner, CEO of BCCI, a large general construction firm in Chicago, to serve as its CEO. Among her many accomplishments, Garner, a federal contractor, was the first black woman to build both a Super Walmart and a Sam's Club.

"The fit was perfect," Freeman states. "Ms. Garner is a mirror image of all the core values and the work ethic I want to pass on."

Tracy Dyson of Tracy Quantum LLC, a leading expert in the use of meditation in business to deal with stress, depression and PTSD, is the organization's official spokesman.

Mario Coleman, COO, rounds out the team. Coleman is a military veteran whose passion is to help his fellow veterans and young adults.

"We provide the resources, the uplift and the support systems to help women of color and other underserved individuals advance to the next level," Garner says. "Even more important, we change lives."



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Maggie Bowens Freeman

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Margaret Garner

Victor Powell/Powell Photography, Inc.

**"A Charge to Keep I Have:**  
*We shall every one of us have a charge to keep, an eternal God to glorify, to provide for, one generation to serve."*

