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MONICA B. MITCHELL RECOGNIZED AS A TOP 100 MBE®

Capital Region MSDC awards MERAssociates, LLC (MERA) as one of the best in the region!

Vienna, VA August 27, 2019 – The Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council (CRMSDC) announced that Monica B. Mitchell, President & CEO, MERAssociates, LLC (MERA) was named a 2019 Top 100 MBE® winner. This prestigious award recognizes owners of minority business enterprises in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia who have demonstrated exceptional entrepreneurial accomplishments, a high level of professionalism, and have made substantial contributions to their community.

Established in 2007, the Top 100 MBE Awards® ceremony welcomes nearly 1,000 attendees in celebration of the creativity and innovation of regional MBEs who are role models and inspire the entire community.

Sharon R. Pinder, CRMSDC’s president and CEO, says, “Our board of directors and our corporate members congratulate the 2019 Top 100 MBEs® on their stellar accomplishments. We are proud to add this year’s class of winners to our circle of leadership.”

The Top 100 MBE Awards® will be presented at the CRMSDC’s *38th Annual Leaders and Legends Awards Ceremony*, on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at the MGM National Harbor.

Monica Mitchell, MERA CEO, says, “I am extremely honored and excited to be recognized by the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council and to be among such an outstanding group of awardees. This award reflects the commitment of so many to the success of MERA, including our great staff, the best clients, exceptional partners and my wonderfully supportive family.”

About Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council (CRMSDC)

CRMSDC is celebrating its 47th anniversary as a not-for-profit economic development organization supporting growth in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia through programs and services that help corporations enhance the diversity and innovation of their supply chains. CRMSDC connects corporate and government members to well established, certified minority-owned business enterprises.

We accomplish this through a rigorous process of certifying that MBE suppliers are at least 51% owned, controlled and operated by ethnic minorities; providing education and advice to certified businesses; and finally, creating strategic opportunities for corporate members and certified MBEs to connect for the purpose of doing business.

CRMSDC, established in 1972, is one of 23 regional affiliates of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, the only nationally recognized MBE certifying authority. CRMSDC is headquartered in Silver Spring Maryland.

CRMSDC also operates two programs funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) grants: (1) The MBDA Business Center, Washington D.C., helps minority-owned firms create jobs, compete in the global economy and grow their businesses, and (2) The Federal Procurement Center which is the nation's only federally-funded program solely dedicated to assisting MBEs in obtaining Federal contracts.

Together these three organization form the *CRMSDC MBE Business Consortium*, the largest provider of MBE support services in the region.

About MERAssociates, LLC (MERA)

MERA is an educational research and evaluation company based in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Founded in 2008 by Dr. Monica B. Mitchell, MERA works with institutions of higher education, school districts, foundations, and nonprofit organizations on issues of access and equity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

A special focus of MERA is directed at capacity-building in STEM education and research for institutions and organizations serving students from underrepresented and underserved backgrounds. Grounded in strong STEM content and culturally responsive expertise, we use rigorous and robust methodology, respond to local realities and context, adapt to project needs, and are results driven.

A core commitment of MERA is to diversify the community of principal investigators (PIs) and minority-serving institutions (MSIs) participating in programs funded by federal agencies. Towards this aim, MERA's technical assistance has generated more than \$20 million in federal awards to MSIs and PIs from underrepresented minority backgrounds.

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