

GDOT Newsletter

April 2024
Volume 94



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
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- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Website Building
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THE 2024 STCREC SYMPOSIUM April 23, 2024 - April 25, 2024



Georgia Department of Transportation and We Are Teachers Launch Free K-12 Car and Road Safety Program

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) in partnership with We Are Teachers, a leading national educational media organization, is proud to announce the launch of a comprehensive, free K-12 Car and Road Safety Program. This pioneering initiative program aims to educate Georgia's youth about the importance of road safety, whether they are passengers in a car, riding a bike, or walking.

The five-year program, provided free of charge by Georgia DOT, offers smart, ready-to-use classroom resources designed to instill vital road safety skills in students from a young age. These resources include road safety activity books for grades 3-5, classroom posters, detailed lesson plans for all grades, interactive activities, a virtual field trip across Georgia, an engaging driving game, and informative Kahoot quizzes.

"We believe in the power of education to save lives," said Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner at the Georgia Department of Transportation. "By equipping our young people with the knowledge and skills they need to stay safe on the road, we are investing in their futures and the safety of our communities."

We Are Teachers, known for its extensive reach and influence among educators nationwide, collaborated closely with an advisory group of 8-10 Georgia educators to develop these materials. This process, which included comprehensive research and interviews, ensured the resources are not only high-quality but also align with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) standards.

"Our goal was to create engaging, practical resources that teachers want to use and students enjoy," said Hannah Hudson, editorial director of We Are Teachers. "With the insight from local educators, we've developed a program that truly speaks to the needs of Georgia's teachers and students."

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Vision Kwest: Presenting ABC's 2024 Contractor of the Year

Kwest Group was always going to be a success. Ryan Odendahl is sure of that today—but even 20 years ago, it was always the plan. Odendahl had left a good position with a successful contractor to join his boss in running a new heavy contracting company in northwestern Ohio. He was 30 years old, a former Marine, and used to making a plan, executing on it and achieving commensurate results. “Our revenue goal this year is \$165 million,” Odendahl says. “In 2003, would I have said that? Probably not. But to get here, it’s just been the next step, and the next step, and the next step. So, I would not have said \$165 million at the time, but I would’ve said, ‘We’re going to make this something really great,’ because otherwise we wouldn’t have done it.” Done it they have—crowning two decades of high-performing growth by being named ABC’s 2024 Contractor of the Year at ABC Convention last month. “For little old Kwest Group, in the pool of contractors that is ABC, to get Contractor of the Year is humbling,” Odendahl says. “Like, a pinch-yourself humbling experience. We are really, really proud of the team.”

RECESSION TO THE RESCUE

“Little old Kwest Group” isn’t actually all that little today, but it certainly was when Odendahl and Mark Murray started the business. Both were working at a large, family-owned heavy highway firm in northwestern Ohio—Odendahl as part of the environmental group, Murray as president of the holdings company. When Murray found an opportunity to acquire a small industrial contractor located in Port Clinton, Ohio, he organized a partnership to procure it and asked Odendahl to run the operations side. As managing partners, the two rebranded the company Kwest Group, named for Murray’s affinity for Key West. Including Odendahl, Murray and Murray’s wife, Kelly, who served as office manager, there were a total of eight employees, all operating out of a double-wide office trailer.

About The GDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on GDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.

Savannah DBE Networking Event April 18th 11am- 2pm

Click on picture for more details



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