



**CITY OF DURHAM**  
Office of Public Affairs  
101 CITY HALL PLAZA  
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## News Release

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## Durham Celebrates 2015 MED Week October 5-9

*September 30 Registration Deadline; Honors Breakfast Award Nominations Sought by  
September 18*

DURHAM, N.C. – Local business owners will get their chance next month to learn how to connect their business with more opportunities during the 2015 Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week.

The City of Durham, in partnership with multiple community, state and federal agencies as well as local businesses, will observe 2015 MED Week from October 5-9, 2015. MED Week celebrates the achievements of minority entrepreneurs and affirms government, business, and community organizations' commitment to the principle of equal opportunity.

Special events for this year's celebration include an honors breakfast; a seminar focusing on new projects coming to Durham; a business fair; MED Week Golf Day; and a multi-topic speed learning event. This year's theme is *"Emerging Markets & Industries: A Blueprint for Success."* The deadline to register to attend these events is Wednesday, September 30.

### 2015 MED Week Schedule of Events

- **Meet the Developers of Durham Projects:** Monday, October 5, 6 p.m. — 8 p.m., Hilton Durham near Duke University, 3800 Hillsborough Rd. Free seminar, but registration is required with [The Institute](#) or by calling (919) 956-8889.
- **MED Week Honors Breakfast:** Tuesday, October 6, 8 a.m.—10 a.m., Durham Convention Center, 301 W. Morgan St. Honors breakfast will feature guest speaker Attorney Jonathan Holifield, a former running back for the Cincinnati Bengals, who will share how the inclusive

competitiveness-interdisciplinary policies, strategies, practices, and metrics can improve the performance of underrepresented Americans within the innovation economy. Cost is \$25 per person and registration is required with [The Institute](#) or by calling (919) 956-8889.

- **Get Up to Speed! With Multi-Topic Speed Learning:** Wednesday, October 7, 8:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m., M&F Corporate Offices, 2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd. Free seminar, but registration is required with the [Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce](#) or by calling (919) 328-8731.
- **Construction Business After Hours:** Wednesday, October 7, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m., The Pit, 321 W. Geer St. Free event, but registration is required with [The Institute](#) or by calling (919) 956-8889.
- **MED Week Business Fair:** Thursday, October 8, 5 p.m.—8 p.m., Durham City Hall Lobby, 101 City Hall Plaza. Free event, but registration is required with the [Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce](#) or by calling (919) 237-1908.
- **MED Week Golf Day:** Friday, October 9 at 8:30 a.m., Falls Village Golf Club, 115 Falls Village Dr. Golfer's Cost is \$45 per person and includes food, green fee, and cart; Golf Clinic is \$20 per person. Registration is required [The Institute](#) or by calling (919) 956-8889.

MED Week Honors Breakfast nominations are now being sought for businesses in three categories – *construction, professional services, and non-professional services* – to recognize minority and women-owned businesses for their excellence and accomplishments in these areas. Nominees must be for-profit firms where at least 51 percent of the business is owned (or in the case of a corporation at least 51 percent of the stock is owned), and the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more persons who are members of at least one of the following categories: Black, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian or White female or other ethnic female who identifies as white. In addition, nominations are also sought for awards in two additional categories - *Individual Diversity Advocate of the Year* and *Agency Diversity Advocate of the Year* – to recognize businesses, organizations, and individuals who have helped support and encourage the economic development of the minority business community. Completed nominations must be received by [email](#) no later than Friday, September 18. Questions regarding the nomination process may be directed to (919) 560-4180.

Durham's local observance is a collaborative effort between the City of Durham Equal Opportunity and Equity Assurance Department, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, Skanska USA Building, Inc., Durham County Government, N.C. Institute of Minority Economic Development, Duke University, Duke Medicine, Balfour Beatty Construction, U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency Business Center, Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce, Derwood Plummer and Thomas, RDU Airport, Lend Lease, Le Chase Construction, Gilbane, and Bordeaux Construction Company, Inc.

Any person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in these events by contacting the City's ADA Coordinator at (919) 560-4197 or by [email](#) as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the event.

### **About the Equal Opportunity and Equity Assurance Department**

The City of Durham's [Equal Opportunity and Equity Assurance Department](#) is responsible for the implementation of the City's Equal Business Opportunity Program. Responsibilities include implementation of race and gender neutral measures to facilitate the participation of Small Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (SDBE) in City contracting activity, recruitment, certification, and maintenance of SDBE data bank, business development, City project compliance, monitoring, and reporting. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department ensures that its services support making Durham a great place to live, work, and play by focusing on a strong and diverse economy, assuring that City is an innovative and high-performing organization, and supporting the stewardship of the City's physical and environmental assets.

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