As an organization built on the foundation of equality, it has been difficult to witness the events happening across our nation. Like you, we are devastated by the avoidable death of Mr. George Floyd and countless others at the hands of police brutality. Mr. Floyd’s death is part of this nation’s systemic inequality and insidious racism that remains prevalent across America from the streets to board rooms and beyond. His death is a call to action for all who believe in racial and social equality.

SCMSDC stands ready to do our part in dismantling the interlocking systems of oppression we continue to face. We are listening intently and ready to do our part to ensure the dialogue of diversity and inclusion continues as part of a larger effort to strengthen ties within and among our communities. As such, we are working with minority businesses to identify how we can help rise above the challenges that currently exist, and address them with the assistance of those with whom we partner. More than ever, we want to hear from you.

As one of twenty-three councils across a national network that are dedicated to helping minority-owned businesses, we are steadfast in our commitment to you and our core beliefs that the strength of our communities is in their diversity; that our different perspectives and ideas are valuable; and when opportunity expands, everyone benefits.

Together, we have endured many trials and tribulations, and our shared histories have proven our resiliency. Moving forward, let us not be silent when we see injustice.

With respect and gratitude,

Virginia Gomez
President & CEO
SCMSDC
MBE HIGHLIGHT

Maria Thompson
CEO
Agile Sourcing Partners, Inc.

As a highly successful woman and minority business owner, Maria Thompson, Founder and CEO of Agile Sourcing Partners, Inc., champions minority, small- and women-owned business enterprises to reach their highest potential. With a passion to “pay it forward,” Maria mentors minority entrepreneurs, sponsors capacity building programs, conducts technical workshops and shares her insights and experience to help these businesses grow and succeed. Under her leadership, Agile has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including, among others, “the Best of the Best for the Spirit of the Entrepreneur” in the Inland Empire, “Exceptional WBE of the Year,” from the Women’s Business Enterprise Council West; Burns & McDonnell’s “Community of Inclusion Award,” SCMSDC’s Supplier of the Year Award for finalist for three consecutive years; and California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Hall of Fame Award. With great pride, SCMSDC spotlights Maria Thompson in this issue of CONNECT.

Q: Tell us about your business?
A: Agile is an integrated supply and business process outsourcing company servicing the national utilities, construction and industrial markets. We are a leader in bringing technology enabled solutions to our customers in the areas of warehousing, logistics, procurement, invoicing, program management and staffing solutions. With close to 200 professional associates across the country we recognize the importance of providing great talent and resources to our customers. Our people are our greatest assets!

Q: How long have you been certified with SCMSDC and how has your experience been with the council?
A: We just had our 10 year anniversary with SCMSDC in 2019 and we have really enjoyed the journey.

Q: Tell us 3 things that are helping you stay well through COVID-19?
A: We have met as a team regularly with Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning leadership calls to touch base on our national operations, what is going on from a global perspective and how we can keep our teammates, customers and suppliers safe. The frequent communications and collaboration help us know that we have each other’s backs and it helps our teammates know that we care about them. We created our own Agile face masks, packaged and created our own hand sanitizers and established a formal PPE and remote working standard operating procedures across all of locations across the country. We also have fun ways to let our teammates know we care about them with pizza delivery on Fridays, Amazon gift cards, Uber eats and virtual social hours with all of operating groups. I am proud of how resilient and steadfast our team has been in what is to say the least not a normal way of operating a business.

Q: What would you say to MBES that are just starting their journey with SCMSDC?
A: Don’t be shy – network, network, network. Your SCMSDC community is here to help you and pay it forward. When you succeed we all succeed!

RESOURCES FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

Have you checked out our Resource Guide lately? We’re constantly updating it with new information, so be sure and check back regularly.

- FedEx Small Business Grant - Due by June 12th!
- Lowe’s LISC Partnership Grant - Due by June 17th!
- Transit Oriented Communities Recovery Loan - Due by June 19th!
- Update on the PPP Flexibility Act
- Best Practices for Returning to Work by Employers Choice Screening, a certified MBE

Click here for more information about this program.