

NEWS RELEASE

PUENTE CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISES, INC.

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Philadelphia-Area Executive Named Regional Minority Small Business Person of the Year by SBA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 15, 2006) – Mario Zacharjasz, AIA, a leading architect and president of Puente Construction Enterprises, Inc., of Woodbury, N.J., will receive the Regional (Region II) Minority Small Business Person of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Zacharjasz is one of 10 minority business persons from around the country who are being considered for the SBA's national Minority Small Business Person of the Year Award. The winner will be announced during the SBA's 24th annual National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week conference in Washington, D.C., Aug. 29-Sept. 1. The event is being hosted by the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

“We’re very excited,” says Zacharjasz. “Even though it’s a personal award, it’s really an award for our entire company. We decided to start the business for the challenge, the fast pace and the need and opportunity for a minority Latino firm to make an impact on the community, and this award validates that approach.

“We’re proud of the fact that in just 10 years we have succeeded not only as a minority contractor but as a primary general contractor.” The SBA’s Region II District includes New York and New Jersey.

The principal partners of Puente (Spanish for “bridge”) are Zacharjasz, Frank Guarini and David Polatnick, Zacharjasz’s partner in PZ Architects, L.L.C., a Philadelphia-based firm. Puente has satellite offices in Philadelphia, Tobyhanna, Pa., Wrightstown, N.J. and Lorton, Va. The firm’s staff of 25 specializes in general construction, construction

management, design-build and estimating for a wide variety of public- and private-sector clients throughout the East Coast.

The firms' federal clients include the U.S. Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey and the Department of Interior's National Park Service. Philadelphia-area clients have included the Philadelphia School District and Nueva Esperanza Academy and Charter High School.

One of Puente's previous federal projects involved preserving Abraham Lincoln's birthplace in Hodgenville, Ky. Current contracts include renovating and restoring the visitor center at the Statue of Liberty and, also for the National Park Service, building dormitory cabins and visitor housing at the Pocono Environmental Education Center.

Additionally, the firm is in the middle of a multi-year contract to rehabilitate and maintain U.S. Army Reserve facilities throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey and West Virginia, as well as construction contracts at Tobyhanna Army Depot and Ft. Dix. Its most recent contract involves the interior and exterior restoration of the existing U.S. Coast Guard Station at Emerald Isle, N.C.

For more information about Puente Construction Enterprises, Inc., call 856-848-0919 or 215-508-2504 or go visit www.puenteconstruction.com.

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