



**BENEDICT COLLEGE**  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**Benedict-Allen Community Development Corporation  
Receives Over \$1 Million Grant from  
the U.S. Department of Labor**

**Columbia, SC—November 1, 2016--**The Benedict-Allen Community Development Corporation recently received more than \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to help fund its YouthBuild Program. The grant will provide construction training, adult education services, and leadership development training to 60 area youth ages 16-24.

The agency has received three previous grant awards totaling over \$1.6 million during the past 15 years and they have provided training and education services to over 200 area youth.

YouthBuild is a non-residential, community-based alternative education program that provides classroom instruction and occupational skills training in construction and other in-demand occupations. The program serves individuals who have dropped out of high school and who have been in the justice system, are aging out of foster care, or are otherwise at-risk of failing to reach key educational and career milestones.

The YouthBuild program aligns with President Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative and job-driven training agenda by promoting a "stepping stone" approach that provides a seamless progression from education to work-based training and results in good paying jobs for young adults. The community-based nature of these grants ensures that services are provided where they are needed most and are intended to reach the hardest to serve youth.

Mr. Larry Salley, Executive Director of the Benedict-Allen Community Development Corporation, stated that "YouthBuild has been a very effective program for youth in the midlands." "There have been numerous success stories from the 200 youth that we have trained, many have gone on to college and successful careers after obtaining their GED and construction certificates from the program."

The new program entitled YouthBuild Columbia will begin recruiting participants soon. For more information on the program, contact Larry Salley, Executive Director at (803) 705-4682 or via email at [Larry.Salley@benedict.edu](mailto:Larry.Salley@benedict.edu).

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**Contacts:**

Kymm Hunter, Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing; 803.705.4519 [Kymm.Hunter@benedict.edu](mailto:Kymm.Hunter@benedict.edu)  
Carolyn Wigfall, Communications and Marketing Manager; 803.705.4366 [Carolyn.Wigfall@benedict.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Wigfall@benedict.edu)