



Michelle J. Word  
Principal

Michelle Word, director of Business Diversity & Development for Burns & McDonnell, has been with the company for 16 years. Michelle develops the company's procedures and policies that relate to and support Diverse Business inclusion. She is responsible for ensuring the company engages, utilizes and, as appropriate - assists in the growth of Diverse firms.

She works externally to educate prospective suppliers and subcontractors about Burns & McDonnell's overall Business Diversity objectives and teaming opportunities. She is responsible for sourcing and reporting to our Clients the monies expended, and the development opportunities instituted by Burns & McDonnell to our Diverse teaming partners working to support their projects. She works internally to educate project managers, procurement personnel and others in the company about diverse businesses that align with Burns & McDonnell's expectations and our Client's expectations, the positive impact of cultivating and maintaining a diverse supplier base, and methods to achieve this objective.

Since her start, Burns & McDonnell has received numerous Business Diversity Awards, gained recognition from multiple political leaders on our diversity efforts, developed partnerships with organizations throughout the country, and provided diverse businesses in throughout the country with opportunities for development and growth.

Michelle was instrumental in launching our commitment to provide yearly scholarships for Diverse firms to attend Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business/Minority Executive Education in New Hampshire. Afterwards, she led the effort to launch nation's first Corporate Collaboration with Tuck. Minority Executive Education classes are hosted by Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City and offered to 30 Diverse firms. Five corporate, municipal government and utility entities have joined with us in this effort.

In 2019, Michelle was inducted into the Burns & McDonnell Hall of Fame as the recipient of The Cornerstone Service Award, one of the highest honors the company bestows. This honor goes to the Burns & McDonnell employee-owner who provides extraordinary customer service to fellow employees and demonstrates continuous dedication to always doing what is best for the company.

Michelle serves on numerous boards and is actively involved with several organizations and initiatives focused on equity and the continued advancement of Diverse Business Concerns.

