



**Cherelle Cortez, Incumbent**

**Why does the candidate wish to be a NAMC Board Member?**

Cherelle Cortez is currently a NAMC Board member for the Atlanta Chapter and would like to continue to chair the Programs/Education Committee. I am very passionate about Supplier Diversity and inclusion. I feel that I can continue to bring value to NAMC and the membership

**Why would the candidate be an asset to NAMC by serving on the Board?**

My goal is to recruit more members to grow the NAMC organization and offer programs and education sessions that are valuable to our members. I am committed to closing the wealth gap for minority-owned businesses, by sustaining a business year after year that requires financial literacy programs. I believe by me continuing to serve on the NAMC Board, I will continue making a difference for our membership, clients, and community.

**What does the candidate want to accomplish during his/her two-year term?**

As part of the initiative of creating opportunities with Primes, Owners, Government, etc. Implementing a tracking mechanism for our program results designed to improve opportunity, scholarships, and education (TAP) Sessions in Atlanta. NAMC can assist with capacity-building for construction firms owned by women, minorities, disadvantaged, and veteran businesses. The goal of the Programs/Education Committee is to help close the wealth gap, particularly among minority and women entrepreneurs in the construction industry.

Hosting monthly meet and greet with the primes on the 3rd Tuesday.

Focus on planning Bi-monthly Tap Sessions.

Host signature events and virtual panel discussions focusing on MWDBEs in Construction.

## BIOGRAPHY

Cherelle Cortez has 19 years of experience in the construction industry and has worn multiple hats focused on the marketplace, workplace, and workforce. Cherelle has been with Layton Construction for 2 years as the Vice President of Trade Partner Supplier Diversity.

Cherelle leads the company's strategic partnerships with minority organizations and directs Layton's subcontractor supplier diversity program that targets minority business owners and cultivates strategic relationships leading to successful contracts with Layton Construction.

Cherelle developed the structure and framework for the National Black Employees Resource Group and led strategic partnerships with minority and women-owned businesses, clients, and organizations, and trained more than 400 business owners on various topics for growth.

Cherelle's community involvement is extensive. She is a mentor who served on the board of directors for the National Minority Contractors Association, Nashville Business Incubation Center for Minority Contractors. Cherelle has been recognized internally and externally as a leader in the supplier diversity space—receiving numerous awards and accolades in the community, such as Atlanta's Most Influential 100 Black Women.