

# **CORNELIUS D GRIGGS**

## **BIOGRAPHY**

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As President of Griggs Mitchell & Alma of IL DBA GMA Construction Group, Cornelius provides executive level oversight on matters related to business development, estimating, risk management, marketing, human capital management, finance, safety, quality assurance and quality control.

### **Corporate Experiences**

Cornelius is a native of Chicago growing up in the city's Austin Community. He's a proven industry leader with over a decade of valuable construction management experience. Cornelius has led a host of projects, across a broad range of product lines that includes; Large scale residential, Public Housing, Education and Transportation.

Cornelius has held construction management positions with two of the country's largest general contractors. Cornelius started his career with Clark Construction Group located in Bethesda, Maryland. Cornelius served as an Assistant Project Manager working on the McCormick West Expansion Project providing direct project oversight of multiple Finish and misc. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing trade contractors.

In his most recent past role, Cornelius served as a Sr. Project Manager and Lead Estimator for The Walsh Group located in Chicago, IL. In this role, Cornelius was directly responsible for leading new projects from preconstruction through project closeout with a focus in the Midwest public sector market. He was charged with pursuing new business opportunities, leading estimates on public openings, facilitating the response process on non-traditional bid responses and providing senior level oversight during construction and closeout phases of a project.

In nearly a decade at The Walsh Group, Cornelius completed an impressive list of projects that include but are not limited to: Dunbar High School Exterior Renovation, Chicago High School of the Arts Renovation, Nash Elementary School and KIPP Renovation, Carver Elementary School Renovation and Conversion, Altgeld Gardens 40 unit renovation, Metra 211th Street Station Rehabilitation, Metra Hinsdale Station Rehabilitation, Metra and The Tides – 52 Story High Rise.

### **Education**

Cornelius holds a Masters of Industrial Technology and Operation with a Concentration in Facilities and Construction Management (MITO) from the Illinois Institute of Technology, a Masters of Science in Executive Management for Design and Construction (EMDC) from Northwestern University, and a Bachelor's of Science degree from Chicago State University. Cornelius also holds several industry related certifications and continues to seek out new opportunities to expand his professional knowledge base.

In a part-time capacity, Cornelius serves as an Adjunct Lecturer and Program Chair for the AAS in Construction Management Program at Kennedy King College. He has served in this capacity since the program's inception in 2009. Cornelius has also partnered with the Chicago Urban League, as an instructor, in the Next-Construction Contractor Development Program

### **Board Appointments**

In 2015, Cornelius was appointed by the Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Office as a Commissioner on the Community Development Commission (CDC). The Community Development Commission (CDC) was established by the Chicago City Council in 1992 to assume the duties of the former Commercial District Development Commission and the Department of Urban Renewal. The CDC reviews and recommends action on the provision of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to assist private redevelopment projects; the designation of new TIF districts and Redevelopment Areas; the sale of City-owned property located in TIF districts and Redevelopment Areas; and the appointment of members to Community Conservation Councils. The CDC is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

In 2014, Cornelius was appointed by the Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Office to sit on the Chicago Community Land Trust Board of Directors. The Land Trust was founded in 2006 to address the increasingly limited supply of funding for affordable housing. The goal of the CCLT is to preserve the long-term affordability of homes created through City programs and maintain a permanent pool of homeownership opportunities for working families. The

CCLT is a non-profit corporation, with a board of directors that is appointed by the Mayor with Chicago City Council consent.

In 2009, Cornelius was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Introspect Youth Services Alumni Association. Introspect is a non-profit organization that assist inner-city youth from underserved communities with college preparation and readiness.

### **Civic Responsibility**

U.S. Senate Round Table Panel – Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions - Cornelius participated in a round table entitled “Strengthening Federal Access Programs to meet 21st Century Needs – A look at Trio and Gear up Programs”. The round table was moderated by Committee Chairman Senator Harkin (D-Iowa) and included both Republican and Democratic U.S. Senators. Cornelius, along with Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) President Maureen Hoyler and Hibbing Community College Upward Bound Director Tallie Sertich addressed the importance of such programs and how they affect the lives of countless low-income and under privileged youth across the United States.

Cornelius, a former participant in Trio Programs and a 2013 “Trio Achiever” while in High School and College, understands the importance of providing access to educational opportunities for inner city youth. His testimony during the round-table provided confirmation that Trio Programs are effective. Understanding that Trio Programs like Upward Bound and Talent Search are vital in our inner-city communities, Cornelius continues to volunteer his time to support the efforts of C.O.E.

Cornelius served his country in the United States Army Reserve from 2001 – 2011. He served honorably, in Karshi Uzbekistan, Doha Qatar and Bagram Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### **Awards**

- Chicago Defender – 50 Men of Excellence Award 2014
- Council for Opportunity in Education – National Trio Achiever Award 2013
- Walsh Group Leadership Initiative (WGLI) Class of 2012
- Army Commendation Medal – Operation Enduring Freedom (2003)