

Bright Hope Capital Buys RJ Leeper Construction

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Three Charlotte business leaders have launched an investment firm to establish and bolster Black and Hispanic-owned businesses in the Charlotte area.

Bright Hope Capital LLC includes primary investors Malcomb Coley, EY Charlotte managing partner, former Bank of America CEO Hugh McColl and Duke Energy executive Lloyd Yates. Today they announced the firm's first acquisition, with Charlotte-based RJ Leeper Construction, a full-service construction management and general contractor company. Ron

Leeper founded RJ Leeper in 1993, three years after meeting with McColl to discuss the lack of representation for Black Charlotteans in the construction industry. The company focuses on commercial construction projects and is licensed in North and South Carolina. Under Leeper, it has completed over 150 projects with a total value surpassing \$650 million.

RJ Leeper Construction is working with Holder Construction and Edison Foard on renovating the Charlotte Convention Center and Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Leeper will retire, but remain involved with the company as a consultant for Bright Hope Capital.

"This acquisition represents a significant and exciting milestone for our company," Leeper said in a statement. "I've come full circle with Mr. McColl first encouraging me to enter the construction business, and now, leveraging his team's expertise to grow the business I've poured my heart into for more than 25 years."

Link to original press release:

<http://www.thecharlottepost.com/news/2021/01/04/business/investment-firm-bright-hope-capital-buys-rj-leeper-construction/>