



**Deep Kleen &  
Maintenance**

## DEEP KLEEN & MAINTENANCE, LLC (DBE)



### Drawing Strength from the Past to Build the Future

Deepak Kukal believes in the American Dream that regardless of where you were born or what class you're born into, you can achieve your vision for success. Kukal is living his American dream in St. Louis. "I always wanted to own my own business," he says. "It's in my blood."

Kukal owns Deep Kleen & Maintenance, LLC, a commercial, industrial and residential cleaning company. He recently won a three-year contract to clean the Lindbergh Tunnel that carries traffic beneath the west runway at St. Louis Lambert International Airport. The tunnel cleaning project will start in September 2020.

What was once a dream of business ownership is now a reality for Kukal. He has cleaning contracts with the Metropolitan Sewer District, the St. Louis County Records Center, Whole Foods, Aldi, Save-A-Lot, various schools and day care centers, and several retailers in area malls.

Certification as a Minority Business Enterprise helped Kukal land cleaning contracts. "It really puts me in a different bracket to grab opportunities where I can bid. It took about three to four months to get certified. In the end it was all worth it because it gave me a new energy," he said.

Kukal continues believing that the sky is the limit and his newfound energy helps him continue to pursue the American Dream. "Between W-2 employees and independent

contractors, I have about 40 people working for me now at our headquarters in University City," he said.

Kukal is achieving enormous success. He has added new locations in his native India as well as in Ukraine. "I love organizing people and putting people together to work. And that's what I do in the cleaning business: put people together. With my team, I bring passion and when they see it, they are driven."

Kukal's success can be traced back to his humble beginnings. He comes from a long line of business owners who taught him that hard work pays off. "And it's blessings of the elders," he says.

He came to the United States in 1998 and lived in Philadelphia for a while. In 2002, he moved to St. Louis to be closer to family and friends. He found a job working for a 24-hour carrier company where he made deliveries from the downtown post office to a processing center near the Airport. "I worked seven days a week and didn't take a day off for five years," he said. Co-workers took note of his hard work and nicknamed him Kleen. That gave Kukal the idea for his company name. It was at the post office where he got the idea to start his cleaning company. "I used to be at the post office and see people doing all these floor jobs and running these cleaning machines. I wanted a piece of the action," he said. You could say he got it and is now living his American Dream.