



Procurement Diversity Quarterly Connection

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Director's Note

Greetings,

As we enter into spring, I am eager for warmer weather and enjoying the outdoors. Spring time represents the start of something new--new beginnings, progress, blossoming of new things, birth, new life and business.

Our approach of outreach and connections over the past several months has led to many new beginnings and success stories. Whether it was a one-on-one introduction to a department, a virtual meet and greet or matchmaking event with over 50 diverse firms presenting their capabilities, or implementing new policies to ensure diverse firms have an opportunity to do business at the university--success will continue blossoming.

We will continue to provide information and outreach to help connect you to the resources you need to be successful.

Kind Regards,

Sharla

Leadaz



Through BSN Sports, Leadaz Brand will become a Major Provider of Physical Education Apparel & Equipment, supplying goods to tens of thousands of Elementary, Middle & High Schools across the United States. Although Leadaz is making moves that is setting them up nationally, Wright says "our focus is still on building up the Leadaz Brand right here at home in Champaign-Urbana. That includes our hopes of fulfilling custom Illini apparel products and/or sports equipment for the University of Illinois one day."

Think of *when passion meets purpose* and Leadaz Athletic Footwear "LEADAZ" comes to mind. Located in Champaign Illinois, LEADAZ is an independent sports and fitness brand engaged in the Design, Sourcing, Distribution, Marketing and Sales of Leadaz Brand Athletic Footwear, Leadaz Brand apparel, team merchandise, sports equipment, and accessories.

Driven to become a leader in the competitive athletic footwear and apparel industry, founder and CEO Javae' Wright Sr. of the Leadaz brand has his eyes set on multiple target markets that include (1) Team Sports (2) School Spirit Wear (3) B2B: Commercial Apparel (4) Leadaz Brand Signature Merchandise, and Ecommerce.

Viewed as a New & On the Rise Brand, Leadaz Athletic Footwear is making significant strides and is on pace to becoming a National Brand as the company just inked a new deal with the World's Largest Distributor of Athletic Merchandise, BSN Sports.

Last Year, Leadaz rebranded Urbana Boys Basketball by supplying custom uniforms and other hoops-related merchandise to EVERY Urbana Middle & High School Team, including at the Varsity Level. Since then, Leadaz has worked diligently through Covid & became the Official Brand of Urbana Boys Track & Field, Champaign Central Girls Basketball, Centennial Wrestling, Centennial Baseball & Urbana Baseball.

Most notably, Leadaz signed a multiple year deal with Centennial High School to become the Official Provider of All Things "SpiritPLUS" for the Chargers Student Body.

"Leadaz On You...Brings Out the LeaderIn You"
Javae Wright
#BringItOut

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Urbana High School

Centennial High School

Central High School

New Vendors Alert

International Card Solutions
CEO: Justin A. Clayborne



International Card Solutions (ICS) is a social impact-driven, black owned technology company providing payment acceptance solutions to its clients.

The company's payment acceptance solutions enable businesses to accept their customers' credit and debit card payments, whether in-person or online. ICS creates value for its clients by reducing their merchant transaction costs, thus increasing the business's profitability. ICS believes success is not solely measured by profits, but determined by the number of lives impacted. As a result, a portion of all ICS' revenues are donated to support our client's initiatives (e.g. university donations, scholarship programs, etc.)

Contact:
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To learn more, Click on image below to Play Video



Enrollment Marketing Solutions Inc.
CEO: Liz Kistner



ENROLLMENT
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Enrollment Marketing Solutions Inc. is a full-service Marketing Project Management Firm delivering fully-integrated marketing and communications strategies and campaigns. Enrollment Marketing Solutions has a proven track record of creating value and successful outcomes. Success can be attributed to incorporating sustainable approaches for its clients and holistic strategies using proprietary approaches, customized solutions, industry best practices, scalable tools, and techniques.

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T&J Distribution
Owner: Jeffrey Trask



Distribution

T & J Distribution is a supplier that equips individuals and businesses with economically priced products and services they need including lighting and electrical, lumber, and filtration. With partners such as PolyBrite International (the manufacturer of Borealis LED Lights), Mesic Vale, and Filtration Manufacturing. T&J is able to provide timely and high-quality products for your projects.

Contact: Jeffrey Trask
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Website: <https://www.tandjdistribution.com/>

SLG Innovation (KRS102) Vendor Cybersecurity Webinar

SLG Innovation, Cylcurion is proud to announce our first of many monthly webinars addressing current cybersecurity threats and remediations. This is a free, value added service to raise the awareness and knowledge of our current and prospective customers about the rapidly evolving cybersecurity threat landscape and the appropriate security hygiene practices needed to protect your organization.

Each month will feature a panel of cybersecurity leaders and innovators who will address timely topics and bulletins. The presentations will strive to minimize jargon and explain the business ramifications of threats and how to remediate them.

Register at: www.cylcurion.com/webinar



4/14/2021 - Webinar Agenda – Phishing and Ransomware

- Introduction - Moderator, Michael Phillips
- Security Awareness / Latest Threats - Cylcurion
- Phishing - Cylcurion
- Ransomware - Kivu Consulting
- Incidence Response – Kivu Consulting
- Panel Q&A – Moderator, /Michael /Phillips

Leadaz

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SpiritPlus will showcase Leadaz designed apparel and accessories in the school's hallway entry which will be sure to turn heads and give the students and staff something to brag about for years to come.

A recent tour of the facility in Champaign proved that Leadaz is not only on its way to the top in the footwear and apparel market, but also has created a uniquely designed, innovative space for strategic planning and design meetings with the team, a multi-purpose audio visual studio, and even room for future interns and youth in the community to learn and and be a part of the Leadaz brand.

So what's next for Leadaz? Wright and his wife Francinna Wright are actively working on 25 new designs for the women's fitness collection which will be available this spring on the website. For more information or a tour of the facility, call 217-607-1341 or email sales@leadazsports.com.

Leadaz Athletic Footwear, BEP MBE Certified
www.leadazsports.com



Virtual Events

- **SIUE- Certifications for Small & Diverse Business -4/29**
 - Register: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/2ZXRAUA](https://bit.ly/2ZXRAUA)
- **UI Health Outpatient Surgery Center & Specialty Clinics Project Schedule for Contractors [click here under Upcoming Construction Opportunities](#)**
 - The Office of Procurement Diversity will send outreach notices closer to pre-bid meeting dates
 - For questions, email procurementdiversity@uillinois.edu

Virtual Meeting Etiquette Tips

For many of us, virtual meetings are a part of our daily work routine. To help keep your meetings productive and hopefully free from any embarrassing moments, here are a few virtual meeting etiquette rules and tips from GoTo Meeting.

1. Leave the keyboard alone - Whether you're diligently taking notes like a model employee or sneakily chatting with your work bestie, the sound of your typing is distracting. It's not only distracting everyone else in the meeting (because your laptop's internal microphone is inches away from your keyboard), it's also preventing you from devoting your full attention to the meeting. Opt for a quality headset or pick up your notebook and pen to take meeting notes instead.
2. Dress appropriately - One of the magical things about working remotely is the freedom to wear anything to work. It's the dream, right? Still, there's no reason to show your co-workers your PJs and bedhead. The best part of actually getting ready while working remotely is that you'll put yourself in the right headspace to be productive.
3. Be aware of your surroundings - Your coworkers won't be able to hear your ideas or take you seriously when there is a pile of dirty clothes in the corner behind you. You also want to avoid looking like you work from the inside of a cave because of bad lighting. Adjust your work setup so that you face a window or are exposed to plenty of light. And make sure your background is professional and work appropriate!
4. Mute your microphone when you're not talking - There's nothing more frustrating than hearing that alien echo noise from conflicting microphones. Save everyone from the ear-splitting madness by joining the meeting while on mute! Unless you live alone, your house is probably pretty noisy these days. Muting your microphone when you're not speaking gives other participants the ability to chime in and share their thoughts without distraction or frustration.
5. Speak up - When you enter a small meeting (around two to five people) announce yourself when you join. It can be awkward to hear the "someone-just-joined" ding followed by silence. When you hop on the meeting, introduce yourself and say hi - just make sure not to interrupt someone mid-sentence. Don't be afraid to project your voice, too! Your team will appreciate being able to hear you without having to strain their ears or turn their volume all the way up.

[Read all seven tips here!](#)

