

Procurement Diversity Quarterly Connection

Vol.4 No.1
Feb 2022

Director's Note

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that 2022 is here and off to such a busy and productive start. I hope you are adapting well and continuing to stay plugged in to the university community.

There are a few new polices that went into affect January 1. Please check out this edition of the newsletter to see how the changes may impact you as well as a few valuable resources that you can take advantage of in your community or virtually anywhere.

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to reach out; I would love to hear from you.

Kind Regards,
Sharla

BEP Impact: UI Health Outpatient Surgery Center & Specialty Clinics



From left, Chicago Ald. Walter Burnett, Jr., 27th Ward; UIC Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Dr. Robert Barish; Illinois Sen. Omar Aquino, 2nd District; Illinois Senate President Don Harmon; UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis; University of Illinois System President Timothy Killeen; Illinois Rep. Theresa Mah, 2nd District; Illinois Rep. elect Lakesia Collins, 9th District; and University of Illinois Hospital & Clinics CEO Michael Zenn. (Photo: Joshua Clark/University of Illinois Chicago)

By David Loffing
UI Health
Chief Operating Officer

This investment in our patients is being driven by our investment in our communities.

At UI Health, investing in our physical spaces and facilities means investing in our patients. When they come to our clinics, we want them to know from the moment they walk in the door that their care and experience will be first-class. From welcoming environments to comfortable, compassionate clinic areas, our goal is to provide exceptional care and experience for everyone.

At groundbreaking in August 2020, with our partner Pepper/Brown Momen Construction, we were proud to announce a commitment to spend approximately 30% of construction costs via the state's Business Enterprise Program (BEP), which fosters inclusive, equitable and competitive business environments to support underrepresented businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. The BEP helps these businesses to increase their capacity, grow revenue, and enhance credentials.

The new Outpatient Surgery Center & Specialty Clinics (OSC) building— scheduled to open in the fall of 2022 — will be a state-of-the-art care center that will accommodate the increasing volume and complexity of surgical care, education, and research at the University of Illinois Hospital & Clinics and its health science partners at UIC.

Through the first quarter of 2021, through our partnerships with the Target Group and Communities Empowering Construction (CEC), we engaged with more than 200 minority- (MBE) and women-owned (WBE) firms

And just as community commitment is part of our mission at the Hospital & Clinics, so, too, is its importance in the OSC project.

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Vendor Spotlight

From St. Louis to Illinois, Webb Engineering, Inc. Expands



Webb Engineering Services (WES), Inc. was established in 1999 as an electrical engineering firm. Today, the firm has grown and now provides mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection engineering design services.

WES' MEP and FP experience includes educational, commercial, institutional, healthcare, aviation and retail buildings as well as street lighting.



Over the years, the company has developed into a firm possessing the size, experience and versatility to take on projects of a variety of scopes and building types, while at the same time maintaining a hands-on approach and involving the personal oversight of the firm's principals on each project.

In 2018, WES acquired ECS, a consulting engineering firm in Champaign IL. This expanded the firm's reach into the Illinois market.

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Policy Updates



CMS Fast Track Certification

Vendors--still not certified with BEP? Certifying with BEP just got easier now that BEP has the FastTrack Certification for businesses certified with the City of Chicago or Cook County only. Visit the [Illinois Department of Central Services](#) website for details.

10-Day Cure Period Extended

Buyers and Primes--effective January 1, 2022, the 10-day cure period is allowed on all deficient bids/proposals, including both construction and non-construction related solicitations.



Emergency Purchases

Buyers--got an Emergency? Need a serious repair done on campus? Don't forget to check the BEP directory first when contacting a contractor. According to Public Act 101-0657, "good faith and best efforts" to include BEP firms are required.

BEP Goal Increases

The Business Enterprise Program's aspirational goal increased from 20% to 30% (excluding construction contracts). Due to the University of Illinois' mission to increase diverse spending, University leadership has decided to increase its construction goals to 30% throughout the System.

IPHEC Awards You Can Use

IPHEC2140 - IT Consulting

IPHEC awarded contracts to over 50 BEP firms that can be utilized by units from any of the three University of Illinois campuses and System units. These awards are meant specifically for use in obtaining services from one or more of the 15 categories of services. For more information, please visit: https://www.aitis.uillinois.edu/services/it_consulting_contracts or reach out to your [purchasing department](#).

IPHEC2142 - Advertising Solutions

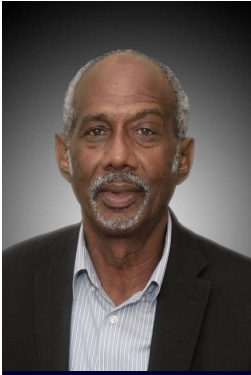
IPHEC awarded contracts to three BEP firms for television, radio, event marketing, Print and more! Firms are available to service your media purchasing plans covering the entire state of Illinois, as well as other markets within our service region. Awardees: [Flowers Communications Group](#), [Lopez Martin & Associates dba Purple Group](#), [Swaag TV](#).



IPHEC2003 - Learning Management System & Training Solution (Sole Source)

[KFA](#) is an information technology consulting and services firm that has established capabilities in training and learning management systems with its KFA Virtual Mentor solution.

Webb Engineering (Cont.)



Stanley Webb
President

"We stake our reputation on our sustained commitment to bring engineering excellence to every project through versatile, proven professionals and by engaging in tight oversight throughout the design process- a keen nose for problem solving and a sharp eye on the bottom line."



Wayne Robinson
Vice President

The WES professional commitment is to maintain and build recognition as a firm that begins and ends with engineering excellence, completing projects on task, on time and on budget.

WES is currently participating on the UIUC architectural and engineering retainer and recently successfully bid on the Capital Development Board Armory Building project in Springfield, IL, where the team competed against four other firms for a big win. It is the largest project the firm has won to date, at an estimated \$120 million construction cost.

Not only is WES heavily engaged in University of Illinois projects, WES recently participated in Ameren's Supplier Diversity mentor protege Program. Led by Ameren's Director of Supplier Diversity, Byron Witherspoon, the program incorporates Ameren's senior management team and dedicated professionals to engage with diverse firms to provide insights and best practices throughout the year.



Witherspoon praised Webb saying, "We learned as much from Stan as we were able to "teach" him."

You can read more about the Supplier Diversity Mentor Program [here](#).

Email: swebb@webb-engineering.com



Business Clinic & Resources

Procurement Technical Assistance Centers

(PTAC) are a portal for small businesses looking to enter the world of government contracting. The centers provide one-on-one counseling, technical information, marketing assistance and training to existing businesses interested in selling their goods and services to local, state, and/or federal government agencies.

SBDCs are America's nationwide network of Small Business Development Centers. A partner program of the SBA, SBDCs are hosted by universities, colleges, state economic development agencies and private sector organizations. It's mission is to help start and grow small businesses.

UIC Business Clinic & Workshops

Walk-in opportunities to meet one-on-one with a business adviser. Clients are seen in 30-minute intervals on a first come, first serve basis. Any business topic is fair.

Clinics:

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Thursdays 2:00 -4:00 p.m.

Webinars:

Feb 9; 6:00-8:00 p.m.
How to Start Your Business: Venture Viability

Feb 16; 6:00-8:00 p.m.
How to Start Your Business: Venture Finance

Feb 23; 6:00-8:00 p.m.
How to Start Your Business: Venture Launch



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

UI Health Outpatient Surgery Center & Specialty Clinics

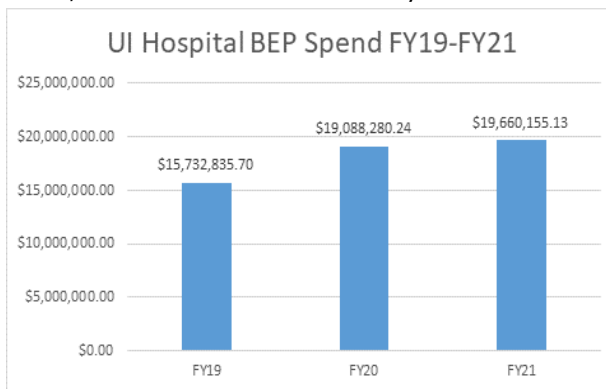


David Loffing
UI Health COO

By being proactive in our approach and through partnerships with major construction firms, we were able to create a number of opportunities for BEP vendors to participate in this project. Through the first quarter of the year, this resulted in a commitment of 33% of construction costs — upward of \$30 million — to MBE and WBE firms across a variety of trades: electrical, HVAC, plumbing, casting, among others.

Committing to procurement with the BEP is in step with our mission at UI Health and allows us to further invest in and impact the nearby communities we serve every day in our clinics. Not only are we investing in the businesses that are creating economic opportunity in these communities, we also are creating sustainable impact. This new facility will provide access to world-class care, and employment opportunities, for these communities for years to come.

We are grateful to our partners Ankura (Developer), Pepper/Brown Momen (Construction Contractors), and the Target Group and CEC (Community Engagement), and the Office of Procurement Diversity, for their shared commitment to our community mission and helping to facilitate a truly equitable and impactful process for exceeding our goals. It should be a source of pride for us all that our commitment to community improvement drives what we do in the healthcare setting — and how we work to expand our services and facilities to create greater health and wellness throughout our communities.



TARGET GROUP



On behalf of the University of Illinois, OPD would like to say "thank you" for working collaboratively to utilize and promote diverse firms and for always being a champion of diversity in the university community.



Events

BEP Virtual Office - Please join the BEP team for virtual office hours where the public can ask any questions about the certification process. [Register](#) today and the certification team will address any questions in a one-on-one meeting with you.

OPD Events - Check out the [Events](#) page on the Supplier Diversity website for upcoming events.

Tools You Can Use

Vendors

Register your business on these four State of Illinois Bulletins to learn about upcoming opportunities, download solicitations, and receive email notifications for all new solicitations, addendums, and award notices:

- [CPO for Illinois Procurement Bulletin](#)
- [CPO for General Services](#)
- [CPO For Capital Development Board](#)
- [CPO for Illinois Department of Transportation](#)