

Procurement Diversity Quarterly Connection

March 2022
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Director's Note

Greetings,

As a public education administrator and advocate for diverse suppliers, I always want to keep an eye toward continuous improvement and opportunities. Our work reaches into every corner of the UofI System: whether it's the facilities we build or the programs we create to educate the vendor community and our partners. The Office of Procurement Diversity holds a unique role in shaping the communities we live in.

This year, we will continue strengthening our relationships with the campus department users and uphold our mission to expand opportunities to the diverse businesses in our communities. We look forward to sharing information, learning different perspectives, and implementing best practices for improving supplier diversity.

As always, please feel free to reach out our staff. We are here to help.

Kind Regards,

Sharla

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Diversity Champion - System Purchasing & Support Service Office

Dan Szajna, Director of System Purchasing & Support Services knows a thing or two about why numbers are important. "Not only do numbers communicate the value of your services, but it also creates a level of transparency and accountability between your customers" Szajna said. Accountability--one of the many reasons Szajna and his staff were recognized as Champion of Diversity and featured in this edition of the newsletter.

First, and foremost, who is System Purchasing & Support Services?

System Purchasing & Support Services supports system-level units that are under President Killeen's org chart with their purchasing and contracting needs. They also provide data analytics services to campus purchasing units, the Office of Procurement Diversity, and other units.

Off the Charts!

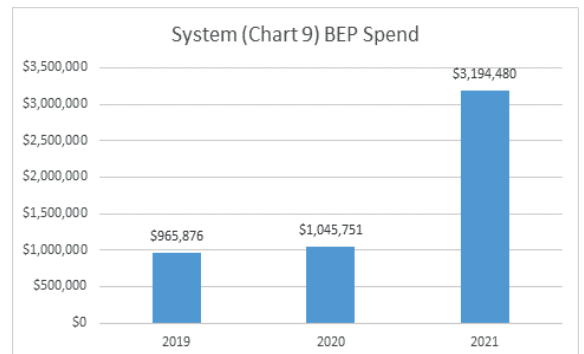
System Purchasing & Support has played an instrumental part in increasing spend with BEP firms over the years. A recent analysis showed that they more than tripled BEP spend by System Units FY19 -FY21. A few unit projects that contributed include:

- Institute for Government and Public Affairs –Contracted through the KRS102 award with a BEP vendor to provide web page redesign services



507 E. Green St.

- Office of Medicaid Innovation – Contracted through the KRS102 award with multiple BEP vendors to provide temporary IT services
- iCard Office – Leveraging the new electrical supplier, IES, to provide card-reader door hardware for upcoming replacements



System Purchasing and Support Services' mission is to serve and support the University of Illinois System by leveraging our knowledge and expertise to provide data analytics and procurement services to deliver efficient, accurate and innovative solutions.

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Celebration Month

Black History Month



Procurement Diversity hosted a virtual Supplier Diversity & Inclusion Chat with guest speaker Diane Primo on February 28. Diane discussed key strategies to bridge the diversity gap in higher education through lessons learned from her 30+ year career with Fortune 500 companies in PR, marketing and minority business development. Diane Primo is an entrepreneur and visionary thought leader on diversity and purpose. She is the CEO of Purpose Brand Agency, an award-winning branding and digital marketing firm, and the author of three books (All, Purpose, and Adapt) that highlight the dialogue around diversity, equity, and inclusion and provide synthesized data to help elevate marginalized businesses.

A historical background emphasizing the value obtained through DEI and practical strategies on how you, as university leaders, can use your influence to enhance the university's supplier diversity initiatives was shared with over 30 university leaders and staff.

Women's History Month



Wednesday, March 30 at 10:00-11:00 a.m. in honor of Women's History Month. Speaker Debra Jennings-Johnson brings more than 20 years advocating for minority- and women-owned businesses, creating successful processes for two of the world's largest companies operating in the US.

Her leadership has resulted in billions of dollars in contracts for diverse businesses along with corporate and personal recognition. In her role as Senior Director of Supplier Diversity, BP America, Debra led the implementation of changes to embed best practices, that grew supplier diversity to a global journey.

Debra's board experience includes: National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), Chicago MSDC, Women's Business Development Center Midwest (WBDC-current Chairperson)

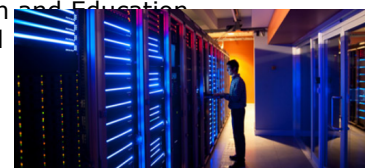
Awards You Can Use

IPHEC2140 IT Consulting is now available for temporary information technology personnel and consulting services for a variety of IT applications, systems, and services. This award replaces KRS102. Awards were made and contracts have been entered with fifty-three firms and can be utilized by departments from any of the three University of Illinois campuses and system offices.

These awards are meant specifically for use in obtaining services from one or more of fifteen categories. Firms can only be utilized for the category(s) for which they were awarded. The initial contract term is for the period of June 23, 2021 through June 22, 2026 with the option to renew for one five-year additional period.

The Request for Quote and vendor information can be found here: https://www.aits.uillinois.edu/services/it_consulting_contracts

PIER Group is your IT hardware and software reseller. The IT Hardware and Software (9DGS2202) Sheltered Market is now available. PIER Group has been entrenched in the Research and Education market for over 25 years. The firm's relationships and partnerships provide the company a unique ability to assist with design, acquisition and deployment of the latest technology solutions for Research and Education advancement across the country. Learn more at <https://www.piergroup.com/> and email b2bsales@piergroup.com for quotes.



New Infrastructure Bill

Reaching big towns and small. Gov. JB Pritzker recently signed a historic, bipartisan bill that gives Illinois its first capital plan in nearly a decade – and the most robust in state history. Rebuild Illinois will make \$45 billion worth of investments in roads, bridges, railroads, universities, early childhood centers and state facilities over the next six years, creating and supporting an estimated 540,000 jobs over the life of the plan and revitalizing local economies across the state.

These projects create great opportunities for diverse businesses. Vendors are encouraged to keep an eye out on the IDOT and other agency bulletins for details.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT & JOBS ACT **ILLINOIS**

ESTIMATED STATE IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION

With the passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Illinois is estimated to receive about **\$17.8B** in combined infrastructure funding over five years for all modes of transportation. The act is focused on climate and equity to provide a safe, equitable, resilient and multimodal transportation system.

OVER FIVE YEARS

<p>ROADS & BRIDGES</p> <p>Over five years, Illinois would expect to receive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$11.2B (estimated) for highway development \$1.4B (estimated) of the \$11.2B is for bridge replacement and repairs <p>Illinois can compete for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$12.5B from the Bridge Investment Program for economically significant bridges \$16B in funding for major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits 	<p>PASSENGER RAIL</p> <p>\$66B invested nationwide for Amtrak repairs, station improvement and train modernization</p> <p>Will help bring passenger service to new cities and towns across the U.S.</p>	<p>PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>Over five years, Illinois would expect to receive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$4B to improve public transportation
<p>AIRPORTS</p> <p>Over five years, Illinois would expect to receive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$616M for airport infrastructure development 	<p>ELECTRIC VEHICLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$7.5B invested nationwide to build a network of EV chargers across the U.S. Illinois could apply for \$2.5B in grant funding for EV charging <p>Over five years, Illinois would expect to receive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$149M to expand the EV charging network 	

Click each fact sheet for full page.



CHAMPAIGN/URBANA HIGHLIGHTS

- I-57:** \$5.5 million for a bridge replacement and to provide bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on Kirby Avenue west of Champaign.
- I-72 over I-57:** \$5 million for major bridge work west of Champaign.
- I-57/I-74 Interchange:** \$120.2 million to rebuild major central Illinois interchange in Champaign County.
- I-57:** \$28.7 million for replacing bridges under U.S. 150 and Mattis Avenue, as well as I-74 under Mattis Avenue northwest of Champaign.
- I-57:** \$11 million to resurface from two miles south of Thomasboro to U.S. 136 at Rantoul in Champaign County.
- I-74:** \$29.3 million to replace bridge superstructure over Market Street, Canadian National Railroad and Township Road 158 in Champaign County.
- U.S. 150:** \$18.5 million to widen and resurface Prospect Avenue from I-74 interchange to Illinois 10 in Champaign.
- U.S. 136:** \$3.7 million to resurface, make safety and ADA improvements, and replace culverts from the McLean County line to east of Fisher.

CHICAGO HI

- Kennedy Ex:** other capacity enhancements from Bessie Coleman Drive to I-90, improving safety and access to O'Hare International Airport.
- 95th Street:** \$92 million to rebuild critical intersection at Stony Island Avenue. Project involves rebuilding railroad bridges to accommodate wider intersection and bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
- Kennedy Expressway (I-90/94):** \$72.6 million for 38 bridge deck overlays from the Edens Expressway (I-94) to Hubbard Street in Chicago.
- Cottage Grove station:** \$60 million to rebuild CTA's Green Line station, creating a new community gateway for the Woodlawn neighborhood and safer, more attractive space for riders and pedestrians.
- Blue Line O'Hare Branch Improvements:** \$50 million to upgrade and modernize power system along CTA's fastest growing corridor – the O'Hare branch of the Blue Line. The additional investment will help speed travel times and increase capacity.
- Blue Line O'Hare Branch stations:** \$31.5 million for new canopies at various stations between the Dearborn subway and O'Hare airport.
- Congress Parkway:** \$25.4 million for major bridge improvements under Old Post Office in Chicago.

New Vendor Alert



Birdy Boutique LLC. is a proud certified women & disabled-veteran owned small children's boutique. The women partners love creating educational moments for kids and families! Birdy Boutique is focused on helping children learn, therefore building

their confidence and independence with adorable & affordable car seat ponchos, learning & weighted blankets, message tapestries, birthday onesie sets, and bowties! Sewing projects for their own children quickly turned into a small business in 2013.

Birdy Boutique has been featured in over 100 online publications from CNN to Forbes. Most recently, the Today show named its two weighted blankets TOP-RATED for Kids in 2021! Launching their learning and weighted blankets in 2020 *right before* the pandemic, little did they know the positive impact their blankets would have for kids! Birdy Boutique was a Top 14 Entrepreneur for Making It With Lowe's Small Business Pitch Competition in October 2021. The owners would love to work with you on a custom creation.

Email: shop@birdyboutique.com
 Website: <https://birdyboutique.com/>



Champaign-Urbana Business Resources



Business Elevator is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on building strong, community-based entrepreneurial ecosystems. Founded

in 2019 in Champaign-Urbana, its goal is to enhance economic opportunity for everyone in the community by increasing the share of diverse businesses and employment opportunities for disenfranchised, disadvantaged, and/or underrepresented individuals. Learn more [here!](#)



College of Media

Hub for Brand Innovation and Advertising Technology

University of Illinois Brand Hub offers opportunities for companies, startups, non profits, government, and organizations to work with teams of students to help them meet their advertising and promotional goals.

Check out current openings [here!](#)

Champion of Diversity

System Purchasing (continued)



What does supplier diversity mean to your department?

The Business Enterprise Act was recently updated to increase our BEP goal from 20% to 30%, clearly identifying the Illinois General Assembly's and Governor's desire to increase participation in State contracting with women, minority and persons with disability-owned business. We have a responsibility to comply with these statutes at a minimum, notwithstanding the equity aspect of the Business Enterprise Program.

Politics aside, it is important for any large organization to have a diverse supplier base. Nothing has demonstrated this more than the COVID pandemic where formerly readily available commodities were suddenly unavailable and shipping delays postponed deliveries. While large corporations placed their customers on allocation many of our small and diverse vendors were able to look at alternative means to meet our supply needs in a much shorter time frame.

System Purchasing takes great pride and great strides in working to achieve the supplier diversity goals. System Office units lean on Szajna's team to help them reach their goals as well.

Feel free to reach out to the team at: 217-333-9BUY (9289) Procurement@uillinois.edu.

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

4/16 - Illinois Department of Commerce - Overview of financial resources for small businesses: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/OMEE/Pages/OMEE-Events.aspx>

4/7-4/25 - SBDC Champaign - April webinars for small businesses getting started: <https://www.cusbdc.org/events/month/2022-04/>

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](#)