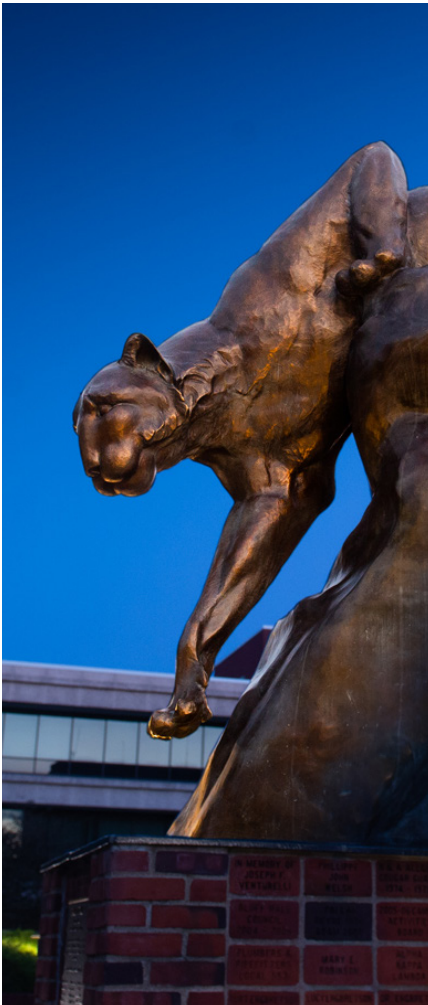


BEP PURCHASING NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 | MARCH 2022



MESSAGE FROM SIUE PURCHASING

Greetings,

SIUE Purchasing is excited to introduce the first issue of our quarterly supplier diversity newsletter. Each issue will feature vendor spotlights, newly certified vendors, articles about the ever-changing landscape of supplier diversity in the state of Illinois, as well as new Business Enterprise Program (BEP) requirements as they arise.

A diverse supply chain is an integral part to fulfilling our values of Citizenship, Inclusion and Integrity as an institution. Knowing that it is important for us to offer a diverse and welcoming environment for our students and faculty, it should follow that we are offering the same to the vendors who support our community. Thank you in advance for your participation and your efforts in working toward meeting our BEP goals.

I hope this newsletter will help you to discover new vendors and resources as we work together to reach our goals.

Sincerely,

Tara J. Raburn
Business Enterprise Program Associate

DID YOU KNOW?

The history of supplier diversity in the United States is rooted in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. An official program was established in 1971, when President Richard Nixon created the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) directing federal agencies to develop program goals for a national minority business contracting program.



VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Tyree Horton started Top Job Cleaning Service in Ballwin, Mo. In early April 1989, Horton expressed to his family that he wanted to start his own janitorial business. “They didn’t think I would take action, so I took that as a challenge. I saw an ad in the newspaper, contacted the individual, and on April 15, 1989, I came home with five contracts and employees,” Horton said.

Horton established his business as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) with the State of Illinois CMS BEP in March 2019. When asked if he had any advice to give to vendors looking to obtain their BEP certification in Illinois, Horton emphasized the importance of making sure your documents are well organized prior to submittal, seeking out technical assistance and attending available trainings. Finally, he recommends thinking on a larger scale in terms of experience, supplies and equipment.

Working with SIUE has played an integral role in increasing profits for Top Job, making it easier to forecast labor and supply costs. Those who work with Horton at SIUE appreciate the work ethic and professionalism of both the owner and his staff.

“Working with SIUE has proven that a small business can work with a large University and still be able to provide excellent customer service. I’ve enjoyed fostering a very positive working relationship with the University’s directors and staff,” Horton said.

If you are a business interested in learning about opportunities to work with SIUE, please use the contact information on the back page of this newsletter to set up a meeting.



WHAT IS BEP?

The Illinois Business Enterprise Program (BEP) was established in 1994 by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS). The program exists to assist businesses owned by minorities, women and persons with disabilities to gain access to the State of Illinois procurement process. Only CMS BEP-certified vendors are recognized by Southern Illinois University System’s supplier diversity program.

To qualify for the BEP Program in Illinois, at least 51% of the business must be owned and controlled by persons who are minority, women or designated as disabled. The owner must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien and the business must have annual gross sales of less than \$75 million.

Each year, we aim to spend a percentage of our overall budget with certified diverse firms. The goal of the SIUE Supplier Diversity program is to provide a resource that will assist the University community in locating and establishing relationships with historically disadvantaged businesses and assure compliance with required reporting in the State of Illinois.



EVENTS/RESOURCES



SMALL AND DIVERSE BUSINESS VIRTUAL WEBINAR

Tuesday, April 19, 2021 11 a.m.-noon

SIGN UP TODAY

This event will provide small and diverse businesses with the tools they need to create a capability statement that will highlight their unique set of skills.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
COMMISSION ON EQUITY
AND INCLUSION

BEP VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon

VIEW LIST OF TIMES

The BEP team provides virtual office hours for the public to ask questions about the certification process. The certification team will address your questions in a one-on-one meeting in English or Spanish.



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