

OSD Link



Connecting Minority Vendors with Government Spenders

Striving For OSD 2010: Increased MatchMaking Efforts



I am pleased to extend greetings to all certified women- and minority-owned business enterprises in the State of Florida as I reflect on one year of service. In that time we increased customer service, improved communication and most importantly, created more opportunities for minority- and women-owned business enterprises. With the support of a talented staff and various business groups, operations are more efficient. Over the next few weeks, we plan to send you success stories from this year and highlight initiatives we will promote in the upcoming fiscal year.

Our office continues to increase opportunities for minority- and women-owned business enterprises through Regional MatchMaker workshops and other outreach activities. We visited every geographic region in Florida this year to promote our services and inform you of opportunities with state government. Furthermore, working with Chairman Matthew Carter of the Florida Public Service Commission, we created the Big Bend MatchMaker to highlight economic opportunities in state and local government, with a specific focus on the utilities and telecommunications industries.

As we reflect on our 2010 Plan, we see much progress and we hope to increase this success. Thank you for your continued support of our office. Enjoy the June issue of *OSD Link* and please let us know what we can do to increase its value for you.

Torey L. Alston
Director

Three Ways to go Green

Make your small firm an eco-friendly powerhouse and more profitable

Get smart about recycling.

Look at what your company consumes and find ways to recycle, reduce and reuse. Recycle paper and introduce less-toxic supplies and materials.

The Green Office is an online retailer for recycled, environmentally-friendly and sustainable business products, school supplies and paper.

www.thegreenoffice.com

Refill computer ink cartridges rather than add them to the landfill. The same goes for obsolete computers. Companies will, for a fee, remove, refurbish or properly dispose of old office equipment and supplies.

Or, donate something no longer relevant to your business to a worthy school or nonprofit. Check out any applicable tax credits.

Review your energy use and think outside the gas tank.

If you're building a new commercial space or remodeling an old one, it may pay to install solar panels. Transportation can have a huge impact on the bottom line for businesses large and small. If you need a company car, consider going hybrid. As consumers continue to embrace automotive alternatives, more models are entering the market and incentives continue. Learn more at car-centric Web sites like www.Edmunds.com and www.CarMax.com.

Do your research.

Co-op America, a green advocacy organization and eco-driven online catalog, earned a Business Seal of Approval award for its product assortment as well as offering an inspiring assortment of hints and tips on how to go green. www.coopamerica.org

A resource outside the United States, Friends of the Earth Scotland, offers a useful online audit to assist in greening your office. www.foe-scotland.org.uk

For ultimate inspiration, check out the Gateway to Astronaut Photography of Earth, an online collection of global shots dating from the Mercury missions in the late '60s. <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/>

Source: Fortune Small Business, October 2007

Important Links to Remember

MyFloridaMarket Place

Register as a vendor and update your listing in the certified minority business enterprise directory.

<http://dms.MyFlorida.com/mfmp>

Vendor Bid System

Register to receive solicitations from the state for business.

http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu

Office of Supplier Diversity

Important information for minority- and women-owned small businesses.

<http://osd.dms.MyFlorida.state.fl.us>

Florida Small Business Development Center

Assistance to start, grow and succeed as a business in Florida.

<http://floridasbdc.org/>

Tips for Success

• Do you need a duplicate copy of your certification certificate? Contact the Office of Supplier Diversity at OSDHelp@dms.state.fl.us to request a copy of your CMBE certificate and within 24 hours a duplicate certificate will be e-mailed to your address listed in MyFloridaMarketPlace.com. For more information contact the Office of Supplier Diversity at (850) 487-0915.

• As a registered state vendor, you can receive electronic notification of solicitations and purchasing opportunities in the State of Florida. All you need is a working e-mail address to receive the updates. Please visit: http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu

• Serve To Preserve: Go Green! Learn more about environmentally preferred purchasing products, Florida Green Standards, or general information on Florida's efforts to reduce climate change at: www.MyFloridaClimate.com

Southwest Florida Regional MatchMaker

More than 100 participants joined us at the Southwest Florida Regional MatchMaker in Fort Myers on May 29 for one-on-one sessions and onsite business certification. Special thank you to the



business owners, local municipalities, state agencies and private corporations that made the event a huge success. Thank you to our regional partners,



including the Florida Gulf Coast University Small Business Development Center.



MM

MatchMaker
Conference

Click on icon to go to Web site.

MBE SPOTLIGHT



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that provides professional campaign services to candidates of all parties and political persuasions. Services include media production and placement, political campaign planning developing, campaign strategy and counseling, and much more. For more information visit www.AllWorldConsultants.net or contact Lucius Gantt at (850) 222-3475.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 19-21, 2008

2008 MatchMaker Conference and Trade Fair

Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Orlando

For more information visit www.FLMatchMaker.com or call (850) 487-0915.

Include your event in the next issue of OSD Link

More than 4,000 certified minority and women business enterprises receive *OSD Link* each month. If you want your event published in *OSD Link*, e-mail details to: Carla.Pierre@dms.MyFlorida.com.

NEWS FLASH



OSD Director Meets with FGCU President

Office of Supplier Diversity Director Torey Alston met with Dr. Wilson Bradshaw, president of Florida Gulf Coast University to discuss supplier diversity and efforts to increase minority participation in the state university system.

MatchMaker Alert!

MatchMaker 2008 is coming!

Contact our office to be a MatchMaker 2008 sponsor. Torey.Alston@dms.MyFlorida.com or (850) 487-0915.

