

OSD Link



CONNECTING MINORITY VENDORS WITH GOVERNMENT SPENDERS

From the Executive Director

Greetings to all certified minority-, women- and service-disabled veteran business enterprises! We use this e-newsletter to share important information with you on a monthly basis, and we will focus on the 2009 legislative session in upcoming months. Our staff works hard to produce a meaningful e-newsletter with important updates, bid opportunities, business development workshops and special notices.



During the first week of March, we welcome the State of Delaware's Minority Business Enterprise Office. We signed a formal agreement to serve as a "mentor" to the State of Delaware to share information on policy design and best practices with our supplier diversity program. Our great state serves as a model for other supplier diversity programs in the country, which shows the strength of Florida's supplier diversity program as we continue to enhance opportunities for minority, women and service-disabled veteran business enterprises.

I truly appreciate your feedback and ideas you share with us. I want to personally encourage you to continue to send your thoughts, suggestions and concerns on how we can better serve you. Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy this issue.

Torey L. Alston
Executive Director

Southeast Florida SBDCs Reopen to Provide Small Business Assistance

The Florida Small Business Development Center Network (FSBDCN), a statewide service network of 34 centers, is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and nationally accredited through the Association of Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) by Congressional mandate. FSBDCN nourishes a statewide partnership between higher education and economic development organizations. It assists emerging and established business owners toward overall growth and increased profitability for the businesses and economic prosperity for the state.

The southeastern-most region of the FSBDCN now operates as four separate SBDC regions with seven new offices.

Reach the new SBDCs at:

- **Indian River State College, Fort Pierce**
Fort Pierce (772) 462-7296 or (888) 283-1177
Stuart (772) 419-5694
- **SBDC at Palm Beach Community College**
Boca Raton (561) 862-4726
PTAC office (561) 862.4782
- **SBDC in Broward**
Fort Lauderdale (954) 762-5201
- **SBDC in Miami-Dade**
Miami and Hialeah Gardens (305) 261-1638
Key West (305) 809-3156

All SBDC counseling is free of charge, and training events are free or have a minimal charge. To learn more about the FSBDCN or to find an SBDC near you, visit www.FloridaSBDC.org or call (866) 737-7232.

Certified Vendor Spotlight



Serving Tallahassee for 23 years, Express Printing is a full-service printing company owned by Tony and Sameera Shah. Express Printing targets its customers' needs with services from digital printing and copying, to providing more than 10,000 promotional products. For more information about Express Printing please visit www.PrintExpressOnline.com or call (850) 222-9777.

To become a CBE Spotlight please contact Carla Pierre at (850) 487-0915 or Carla.Pierre@dms.MyFlorida.com.

Dates to Remember

“Financing Your Business” workshop

Hosted by: Florida Small Business Development Center at the University of South Florida (USF)
Date: March 11, 5:30-9 p.m.
Location: USF/Downtown Center
<http://sbdc.usf.edu>

“Business Strategies during a Down Economy”

Hosted by: Florida Small Business Development Center at the University of Central Florida (UCF)
Date: March 11-12, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location: Small Business Development Center at UCF
http://www.bus.ucf.edu/sbdc/seminars_strategy_workshop_09.html

“Winning Millions” grant workshop

Hosted by: Metropolitan Design and Consulting Group, Inc.
Date: March 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Register by: March 17
Location: The Hotel at Capital Hill
www.mdcgconsulting.com or (850) 878-5818

Tips for Success

Have you recently moved, changed your telephone number or e-mail address? Please remember to **update your contact information** and commodity codes at <https://Vendor.MyFloridaMarketPlace.com>. For assistance please contact the MFMP Helpdesk at (866) 352-3776.

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 and within 24 hours we will e-mail a duplicate certificate to the 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

Are you a certified minority- or woman-owned business available to provide services or commodities to government buyers **before or after a natural disaster**? If you are, join the 2009 list of emergency suppliers at http://dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/florida_emergency_network. For more information, e-mail flemergencynet@dms.MyFlorida.com.

Bid Opportunities

The Department of Community Affairs requests bids for DataCard Printers and Accessories for security ID card system. For more information about bid #ITB-DEM-08/09-01, visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu or contact Denise Roberts at (850) 413-9957.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wants interested vendors to provide competitive pricing for Commission Uniforms: Hats, Caps, Jackets, and Fishing Shirts. For more information about bid #FWC 08/09-63, visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu or call Allegra Small at (850) 488-3427.

Florida State University wants Construction Managers to oversee a project consisting of approximately 120,000 sq ft of new construction with student health spaces, classrooms and fitness spaces. For more information on solicitation #FS-261, visit www.fpc.fsu.edu or contact Daryl Ellison at (850) 645-1007.

The Agency for Workforce Innovation, Unemployment Compensation Services is seeking the services of a vendor(s) who can provide call center services to handle the overflow calls processed through their IVR system and reduce call wait times for unemployment compensation claimant services. For more information concerning ITN #09-ITN-005-MG, visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu or contact Melinda Gill at (850) 245-7466.

Regional MatchMaker 2009 coming to a city near you.

Regional MatchMakers begin in March 2009. Please visit www.osd.dms.state.fl.us for upcoming events.

Important Links to Remember

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Provides valuable information for Florida's Veterans.
<http://www.floridavets.org/>

Florida Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Assistance, at no charge, for any Florida firm in all phases of conducting business with federal, state and local governments.
<http://fptac.org>

Florida Small Business Development Center

Assistance to start, grow and succeed as a business in Florida.
<http://floridasbdc.org/>

Vendor Bid System

Register to receive solicitations from the state for business.
http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu