

OSD Link



CONNECTING MINORITY VENDORS WITH GOVERNMENT SPENDERS

From the Executive Director



Greetings to all certified minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran business enterprises! As the Florida Legislative Session has begun, we have seen great support and commitment from our state leaders to small businesses. One of our main legislative priorities is to implement a uniform certification period for all certified businesses and we have seen great progress! We appreciate your e-mails and letters of support for this initiative.

As you know, Florida's Supplier Diversity Program continues to serve as a model for other programs in the country. We provide advice and encouragement to other voluntary, goal-based and hybrid programs on policy design and best practices in diversity inclusion, outreach and new emerging trends. Our office has constant contact with other state directors to ensure Florida continues to provide new initiatives that enhance Florida's small businesses.

I truly appreciate your feedback and ideas you have shared 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 and I hope you enjoy this issue.

Torey L. Alston
Executive Director

Education Gone Green

Fort White couple has vision for future self-sufficient school

Gary and Delayna Harris founded The Harris Institute for Young Entrepreneurs, or THI-YE. This unique, for-profit school for pre-K through grade 12 will be 100 percent self-sufficient, providing its own electricity with its own water and wastewater system. Planned location is Alachua County or Marion County.



L to R: Delayna and Gary Harris, PSC Chairman Matthew Carter III, DMS Secretary Linda South and OSD Executive Director Torey Alston

This will be the first "green school" built from the ground up that is totally self-sustainable with all classrooms 100 percent paperless. The school will have acoustic rooms with laptop computers and a 10,000 square-foot health food restaurant, operated by students during lunch, and includes a Culinary Arts Degree program. Its Research and Development Department will help acquire research grants to provide students with the tools to study the environment on a local and global basis.

"Children will learn environmental stewardship as well as out-of-the-box thinking at The Harris Institute for Young Entrepreneurs," Gary said.

Harris is a decorated, disabled veteran who earned two bronze stars and other medals from his service in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. The Harris Institute is a product of the Harris' American Building Inspectors Corporation (ABI). ABI was recognized in 2008 as the first service-disabled, veteran-owned business in Florida certified through the Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises Act.

Source: Jeff M. Hardison



Certified Vendor Spotlight

Tallahassee's *InSpire Magazine*, owned by Dr. Lee Jones, provides readers with the latest techniques, information and strategies to address the positive and negative forces of life. For more information about *InSpire Magazine* please visit inspire@inspiremag.org or call (850) 745-0713.

Legislative Update: HB 319/SB 1480 Recertification of Minority Business Enterprises

The bill extends the period for recertification for minority business enterprises from one year to two years. Sen. Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee, and Rep. Jennifer Carroll, R-Fleming Island, sponsored and championed this initiative. Here is an update on the bill process:

- HB 319 passed the House Governmental Affairs Policy Committee and the House Economic Development and Community Affairs Policy Council
- SB 1480 passed the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

Senate Bill 1480 is scheduled for two more Senate committee stops before going to the floor. On the House side, HB 319 successfully passed the committee process and its next stop is the House floor!

Dates to Remember

Northeast Florida Regional MatchMaker

April 9, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
University of North Florida
12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville

Small Business Issues Forum (Northwest Florida)

April 18, 1-5 p.m.
Hosted by: Office of Small Business Advocate
WorkforcePlus, Tallahassee
More information: Jennifer Crews (850) 473-7817 or
Jennifer.Crews@floridaosba.org

Florida Regional Minority Business Council's 24th Annual Business Expo

April 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale
For more information please visit www.frmbc.org or
call (305) 762-6151

May 2009

Big Bend Regional MatchMaker, May 20, Tallahassee
Southwest Florida Regional MatchMaker, Fort Myers

News Alert: Florida's Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD) Hosts Delaware

March 3 our office welcomed the Delaware Office of Management and Budget Office of Minority & Women Business Enterprise and California-based Insight Center for Community Economic Development. We have a state peer-to-peer match activity agreement with them. Florida, the mentor state, shares policies, documents, advice, encouragement and makes site visits. Two OSD representatives will travel to Delaware on March 29-31.

Bid Opportunities

The Department of Corrections seeks a qualified vendor to furnish roofing materials to two new open bay dorms being constructed at the Columbia Correctional Institution Annex in Lake City. For more information about bid 08-COLUMBIA-8059 please visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu or contact Trish Heinze at (850) 410-4274.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry solicits responses from qualified contractors for the development, installation, implementation and limited maintenance of a Web-based Florida Risk Assessment System (application) covering Florida's 67 counties. For more information about ITN DF 08 09 05 REBID please visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu or contact Christie Hutchinson at (850) 487-3727.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles solicits Invitations to Negotiate on a lease for office space in Miami. For more information about ITN 760-0526 please visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu or contact Bryan Bradner at (850) 617-3458.

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 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.

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.

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.

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 to all Florida firm during any phase of conducting business with federal, state and local governments, at no charge.
<http://fptac.org>

Florida Small Business Development Center

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