



# Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters! December 2012

## Upcoming Events

### December 5th

How to Do Business  
with IDOT Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Metro Centre  
1137 E. 5000 North  
Road

Bourbonnais, IL

Contact:

Theo Joyner  
[theojoyner@rgma.com](mailto:theojoyner@rgma.com)

### December 6th

IDOT IT Information  
Session

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

University of Illinois at  
Springfield  
Room UHB 2034

One University Plaza  
Springfield, IL

Contact:

Aisha Jordan  
[dot.recruitment@illinois.gov](mailto:dot.recruitment@illinois.gov)

### December 13th

Trucking Workshop  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

EIGERlab

605 Fulton Avenue  
Rockford, IL

Contact:

Kayla McCoy  
(815) 284-5389

For a complete list of  
events, visit [http://  
www.diversity.dot.  
illinois.gov/event\\_  
calendar.aspx](http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/event_calendar.aspx)

## IDOT Profile: Marsha Campos, Chief Operating Officer

As one of the senior transportation executives, who happens to be among the three leading women at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Chief Operating Officer Marsha Campos has made great strides within the agency since her start in 2007.

"It is exciting and impressive to see women hold as many cabinet level positions within the current administration and the nation. Those who have gone before me have proven to be skillful, determined and competent leaders and co-workers. This has not only provided an opportunity for me and my female co-workers but a reason to work even harder to pave the way for future leaders," said Chief Campos.

Not only has Chief Campos assisted with moving the agency towards a more multi-modal approach, she also works hard to showcase the importance of strategic innovative transportation investments to ensure the department remains competitive in the global economy.

Chief Campos understands that the success of a transportation

agency is more than building new bridges and highways or improving transit, rail and air systems.

It is also about meeting the emerging transportation mobility needs and addressing challenges by creating an accessible, safe, sustainable and affordable transportation system for all of Illinois.

In her role as Chief Operating Officer, Chief Campos works directly with agency directors on operational needs and major projects and initiatives. She is also responsible for assisting in the oversight of the agency which has a workforce of more than 5,200 employees and a \$2.5 billion budget for capital projects.

When asked what advice Chief Campos wanted to provide for women interested in pursuing a career in transportation, she said "Honestly assess your skill set. Play to your strengths and manage your weaknesses. Be humble and teachable. Aim high."

Prior to taking on the role as Chief Operating Officer, Chief Campos served as Deputy Director in IDOT's Division of High-

ways. She started with the state of Illinois in 2001 as a Budget Analyst 1 and later became a Senior Budget Analyst for the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (previously named Illinois Bureau of the Budget). She earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Chief Campos foresees a bright future for transportation in Illinois. She believes it will entail strategic interconnectivity of the various transportation modes for the efficient movement of people and goods as well as futuristic technological advancements (such as driverless cars and smart roads) that will start to emerge and take root.

"With limited resources (financial or environmental) and increased demands for mobility of goods and people, we have to think differently about how we invest in the entire system. By challenging ourselves and transportation stakeholders to think in this way will foster innovative solutions that we can enjoy and future generations can benefit from," said Chief Campos.

## Registration Opens: Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward DBE Conference

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Office of Business & Workforce Diversity is now accepting registration for the 2013 Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward conference set for February 19-20, 2013 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield, Illinois. To get registered, visit [http://www.  
dot.il.gov/sbe/workshop.html#conferences](http://www.dot.il.gov/sbe/workshop.html#conferences) or call Dana Goodrum at (217) 524-7793.

## 16th Annual Transportation Symposium & Business Exchange Update

In November, more than 400 people participated in the 16th Annual Transportation Symposium & Business Exchange held in Chicago.

The symposium is a collaboration among the Illinois Department

of Transportation, the Regional Transportation Authority, Metra, Chicago Transit Authority, Pace and Illinois Tollway to provide a unique opportunity for networking with transit and transportation agencies, prime contractors, minority and female-owned

businesses.

This year's symposium consisted of multiple seminars giving attendees an opportunity to participate in discussions tailored to help them become competitive in the business world.

## IDOT Announces Current Procurement Opportunities

The Illinois Department of Transportation announces current procurement opportunities open for bid. To find a full list of opportunities, potential vendors can visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at [www.purchase.state.il.us](http://www.purchase.state.il.us).

### New CREATE Brochure to Benefit Illinois' Small and Minority Owned Firms

In an effort to further assist qualified small, minority- and women owned firms, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will soon feature a new online Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) brochure.

The purpose of the brochure is to assist Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms

with building relationships with the CREATE partners to help provide opportunities for success.

CREATE is a first-of-its-kind partnership between U.S. DOT, the state of Illinois, the City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, and the nation's freight railroads. A project of national significance, CREATE will invest billions in criti-

cally needed improvements to increase the efficiency of the region's passenger and freight rail infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for Chicago-area residents.

The brochure is expected to be released early December.

For a copy of the brochure, visit IDOT's diversity website at [www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov](http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov).

### A Young Woman's Road to Civil Engineering

Women are still under-represented in engineering occupations, but the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is committed to researching and expanding outreach initiatives to attract and introduce young women like, Tiffany Colson, to careers in engineering, particularly civil engineering to help change that.

Colson is a great example of someone who took advantage of the opportunities provided by IDOT to start the process to become a Civil Engineer.

Currently, Colson is a Civil Engineer Trainee in IDOT's Division of Highways, Bureau of Materials, located in Schaumburg.

Growing up, Colson, a native of Chicago, has always enjoyed math and decided to enter

into the Civil Engineering Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. During her academic studies, she participated in the National Society of Black Engineers and had the opportunity to meet with IDOT's Diversity Recruitment and Outreach staff. That opportunity changed her path.

As a result of the meeting, Colson landed a volunteer opportunity with the Chicago IDOT Engineering Academy. During her experience at the IDOT Engineering Academy, Colson helped coach 50 students through the Bridge Builder module provided to the YMCA's Black & Hispanic engineering career cluster. Colson later applied and received the IDOT Civil Engineering Scholarship and worked as a summer intern at IDOT. It was her experience

with the engineering academy that solidified her decision to work for the department.

Colson recalls that it is sometimes challenging for a female in a male dominated profession. There are times she would feel intimidated. However, as she began to express the knowledge, skills and abilities she has learned through her education and many experiences, she has overcome these feelings.

Colson's advice to other young women is to get as much experience as possible through volunteer, co-op and intern opportunities to help prepare for the future. Colson shared that during her time at IDOT the staff has been nice, friendly, and willing to assist when needed. She enthusiastically adds, "IDOT is a great place to work!"

### Historical Tidbits: Minorities in Transportation

Did you know that Mr. Norman Yoshio Mineta was the first Asian-American to hold the position of U.S. Secretary of Transportation?

Mr. Mineta was appointed under President Bush's administration as Transportation Secretary while previously serving under the Clinton administration as Secretary of Commerce. As Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Mineta oversaw an agency

with 60,000 employees and a \$56.3 billion budget.

"Transportation is key to generating and enabling economic growth, determining the patterns of that growth, and determining the competitiveness of our businesses in the world economy," said Mr. Mineta.

During Mr. Mineta's tenure as Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation, the Aviation and Transportation Security

Act (ATSA), was passed which established the Transportation Security Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Under Mr. Mineta's direction and leadership, the U.S. Department of Transportation ushered in the Transportation Security Administration which was transferred to the Department of Homeland Security as a fully-operational agency on March 1, 2003.

### Mississippi River Bridge Project Snapshot

One of the goals of the Mississippi River Bridge (MRB) project is to create a diverse job site contractor workforce. For the week of November 10-24, 2012, there was an overall workforce of 28.5% minorities and 2.2% female on the MRB project. For more information, please visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.

Christy Webber Landscapes (CWL) is a full-service landscape provider that offers design, construction and maintenance programs to residential, commercial and municipal clients throughout Chicago. It is a certified Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) with the City of Chicago and Cook County and a certified Female Business Enterprise with the State of Illinois.

The CWL headquarters is located at Rancho Verde, a 12.5 acre eco-industrial park on Chicago's west side. Webber Landscapes employs over 250 employees.

Webber began her entrepreneurship journey with the City of Chicago in 1988 and progressively expanded her business by offering comprehensive landscaping services to businesses in Chicago and surrounding suburbs. In 2012, the company worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation as a WBE on landscaping projects.

CWL has maintained some of the most prestigious airports, including O'Hare & Midway. Currently, CWL maintains Museum Campus including Soldier Field, Grant Park and the United Center.

When asked if being a WBE has helped her business thrive she replied, "Being WBE certified has been helpful but it's just part of the plan not the whole plan. CWL's success has come by pushing beyond the WBE status and competing for all types of work," Webber added.

Webber attributes her company's longevity to her qualified and trained team of employees who reflect the Chicagoland population.

For more information on Christy Webber Landscapes, visit <http://www.christywebber.com/>.