

Upcoming Events

October 4th

Ask the Experts Session
IDOT Resource Center
900 S. Desplains Street
Chicago, IL
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Contact:
Cheryl Aaron
(312) 939-1100

October 4th

SIUE School of
Engineering October
Career Fair 2012
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Morris University Center
Meridian Ballroom
Edwardsville, IL
**Resume and
Professional Attire
REQUIRED**

Contact:
Susan M Seibert
sseiber@siue.edu

October 4th- November 11th

Engineering Academy
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Capital City College
Preparatory Academy
Springfield, IL
Contact:
Alicia Y. Jordan
(217) 782-9108

October 11th

Fall 2012 Job Fair &
Career Day
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wilbur Wright College
Events Building Atrium
Chicago, IL
Contact:
Career Planning &
Placement Center
(773) 481-8527

For a complete list of events,
visit http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/event_calendar.aspx



Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters! October 2012

Women Leading the Way at the Illinois Department of Transportation

Transportation has long been considered a man's field, but women have made significant historical contributions to the transportation industry and laid the groundwork for future innovation. Women have worked in every mode of transportation and in every type of job, from legislative and managerial positions to maintenance work.

In November 2011, Ann L. Schneider became the first female Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). As Secretary she is responsible for coordination with federal, state and local elected officials, agency directors, industry associations and adjacent state DOTs.

Secretary Schneider is passionate about transportation and recognizes its importance as an economic engine and a critical element to improve the quality of life for Illinois residents.

She is joined by two other women at the top of the agency. Marva Boyd is the Chief of Staff and Marsha Campos is the Acting Chief Operating Officer. You will hear from them in subsequent editions of this newsletter.

Historic Tidbits: Minorities in Transportation

Did you know that the 12th United States Secretary of Transportation was a Hispanic American?

Federico Fabian Pena (born March 15, 1947) served as the US Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997. As US Secretary of Transportation under the Clinton Administration, Pena made major contributions to the international transportation community by negotiating international aviation

Secretary Schneider sees the importance of women in Illinois' transportation workforce and encourages women to work together to address key challenges and do what is best for their respective communities.

"Women can bring a different perspective to our toughest challenges and can help design solutions that without their input would not have been considered," said Secretary Schneider. "Women are good at developing compromises and building coordinated responses. At IDOT, there are many very bright, talented women making a difference every day."

Secretary Schneider previously served as IDOT's Chief Operating Officer and also as Director of Finance and Administration. She was responsible for the most aggressive minority recruitment effort ever undertaken by IDOT. Under her leadership, IDOT has made significant improvements toward achieving parity in all underutilized categories. Secretary Schneider created IDOT Career Day for middle and high school students to increase interest in transportation careers. She also created the

university engineering scholarship program for minority students willing to commit to a career at IDOT.

In January 2012, the Women's Transportation Seminar Greater Chicago Chapter named Secretary Schneider and Illinois Tollway Director Kristi Lafleur Women of the Year. This distinguished award was given for leadership and outstanding contributions to the Chicago area transportation industry. The award also recognized contributions to the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in transportation.

Secretary Schneider was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana College in Rock Island and her Masters of Public Administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS). She has completed her coursework and is All But Dissertation status in the Doctorate of Public Administration Program at UIS.

In 1983, US Secretary Pena was elected the first Hispanic Mayor of Denver, and also served as the United States Secretary of Energy from 1993 to 1997.

Watch for more historic facts about minorities making a difference in transportation in upcoming editions of Diversity Matters!

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.

Joliet Multimodal Project Exceeds DBE Participation Goal

The general contractor chosen by the City of Joliet to construct a new multimodal transportation center in downtown Joliet has exceeded the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation goal.

P.T. Ferro Construction Company exceeded the 25 percent DBE goal with 26.4 percent participation on the project, which involves the construction of a 400-space parking lot southwest of the new station.

The start of construction on the project was announced in September by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, along with Trans-

portation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. As part of Governor Quinn's commitment to building a 21st century infrastructure in Illinois, the project begins a complete overhaul of a key stop on the Chicago-to-St. Louis high-speed rail line.

The \$42 million project, which includes a \$32 million commitment from Governor Quinn's Illinois Jobs Now! capital program, will create almost 400 construction jobs, improve safety for travelers and serve as a catalyst for future transit-oriented development in Joliet's historic City Center.

"We are not only committed

to putting people to work, but ensuring everyone gets a fair opportunity. We strive each day to make certain we are doing everything we can to also advance women and minorities," said Secretary Schneider. "The new Joliet transportation center is exactly the kind of project we envision to meet the state's future transportation needs." The transportation center is anticipated to be complete by 2015.

For more information on the project, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/press/9%2021%2012%20Joliet%20Multimodal%20Transportation-%20RELEASE.pdf>

IDOT Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is proud to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The month was dedicated in 1988 by the US Congress to increase awareness of the employment needs and contributions of individuals of all different types of disability.

"At IDOT, we embrace, support and encourage all employees to strive for excellence," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider.

"With National Disability Employment Awareness Month under way, I would like to personally thank all of our talented IDOT employees, including

those with disabilities for their contributions and hard work. I would also like to use this opportunity as a way to educate and invite others to recognize the value and diversity that workers with disabilities bring to the work place," Schneider added.

October 17 signifies National Disability Mentoring Day.

IDOT Engineering Academy: "A Fulfilling Experience"

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is committed to attracting and enabling young people to pursue careers in the transportation industry.

"We use programs like our Engineering Academies to reach out to students and expose them to civil engineering as a career. This program gives many of our engineers an opportunity to serve their communities," said Erwin L. Acox, Acting Chief of Diversity Recruiting and Outreach.

Shomari Moss, Civil Engineer III, in the Bureau of Construction, District 1, is one of the individuals whose experience at IDOT has given him the opportunity to serve the community through various outreach efforts.

Originally from Michigan, Moss stumbled upon the transporta-

tion field as a result of his love for architectural engineering design and community involvement. With a vision to help make a difference in the community, he attended Florida A&M to pursue his career in Civil Engineering.

IDOT's Civil Engineering Trainee Program provided Moss with an opportunity to observe various bureaus within the Division of Highways before his permanent placement in the Bureau of Construction. He says the time he spent in the Bureau of Design and Bureau of Programming as a trainee equipped him with skills and knowledge for his current job duties.

"To be able to work with high school students of the YMCA Black and Latino Achievers

through the Engineering Academy has been rewarding, both professionally and personally," said Moss.

"The Engineering Academy is a great outreach tool among high school students," adds Moss.

"The Academy encourages them to realize that a career in engineering is a goal that is attainable and achievable at the same time."

Moss believes the program is successfully making a difference in the lives of youth and how they view engineering as a career.

For more information on IDOT's Engineering Academies, please visit: http://www.diversity.dot.ilinois.gov/student_outreach_opportunities_engineering_academies.aspx

DBE Spotlight

Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. (IEI) is one of the leading consulting engineering firms in the Midwest since 1986. IEI serves both public and private organizations and focuses on the delivery of high quality design engineering, program management, and construction engineering and inspection services. The firm was acquired by its current President, Michael Sutton, P.E., in 1997.

Even though during the early days, IEI started with only two employees, it has since expanded its staff to 75 with two offices in Illinois. The firm was part of the Illinois Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, which allowed IEI to gain valuable project experience and attract key talent. In addition, the DBE program created opportunities for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) in a highly technical and competitive field.

"In the past, our experience in the DBE program has taught us that work must be earned and completed at demanding industry standards, and that DBEs must perform at the same level as a prime consultant. We knew we had to find the best talent and provide exceptional customer service," said Sutton. "Once you gain experience primarily as a sub consultant and secondarily as a prime consultant, the challenge then becomes transitioning to winning work as the lead firm on major projects. The foregoing requires a new mindset and strategy," added Sutton.

After graduating from the DBE program in 2007, IEI is now re-entering the program, due to modifications of size standards by the Small Business Administration.

"Through our DBE Certification, we will continue to work diligently to focus on forming significant relationships, partnering with clients, and performing meaningful work, as a result, we will have the resources to compete as a prime consultant in multiple infrastructure categories," said Sutton.

For more information on IEI, visit <http://www.infrastructure-eng.com/>.

Notice of November Letting

The Illinois Department of Transportation is preparing for the November letting, scheduled for November 9, 2012. With 84 road and bridge construction projects totalling more than \$166 million anticipated for the November letting, the 2012 construction season still proves to be a busy one. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/desenv/delett.html>.

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. From September 6-22, 2012, there was an overall workforce of 24.5% minorities and 2.6% female on the MRB project. For more information, visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.