



# Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters! September 2012

## Upcoming Events

### Sept. 11th

Engineering Career Fair  
2012

10:00-3:30pm  
Illini Union Rooms A,  
B, C, 1401 W Green St.,  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Contact:  
Kathy Darr  
[kdarr@illinois.edu](mailto:kdarr@illinois.edu)

### Sept. 20th

Fall Career Fair 2012

10:00-2:00pm  
Illinois Institute of  
Technology  
Hermann Hall, 3241  
S. Federal Suite 111  
Chicago, IL  
Contact:  
Shirlean Williams  
[Swilliz6@iit.edu](mailto:Swilliz6@iit.edu)

### Sept. 20th

Developing Financial  
Projections

10:00-1:00pm  
D-1 DBE Resource Center  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL  
Contact:  
Theo Joyner  
[theo.joyner@illinois.gov](mailto:theo.joyner@illinois.gov)

### Sept. 27th

Civil and Environmental  
Engineering Fall Job Fair

9:30-3:30pm  
Newmark Lab., U of I,  
205 N Mathews Ave,  
Urbana, IL  
Contact:  
Breanne Ertmer  
[ertmer@illinois.gov](mailto:ertmer@illinois.gov)

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 Participates in Public Hearing Hosted By Representative Ford

On Thursday, August 2, Illinois State Representative La Shawn Ford hosted his second Advisory Council Meeting at the Michael A. Bilandic building in Chicago. The purpose of the meeting was to present milestones achieved and discuss solutions for those who have a vested interest in the state's transportation policies.

Representative Ford was

joined by a diverse crowd of contractors, consultants, agency partner representatives and representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois Tollway who presented relevant updates to the attendees. The two agencies also provided information on initiatives highlighting the rail program, business opportunities,

pending legislation and diversity initiatives.

In addition, the meeting also provided local residents with an opportunity to form and further improve partnerships with small businesses.

For more information on upcoming events and opportunities, visit Representative Ford's website at <http://lashawnford.com/index.html>.

## Career Day Scheduled for Two Illinois Communities

The Illinois Department of Transportation will host two Career Day events this year in Peoria and Chicago. Career Day is designed to be a workforce development tool that introduces high school students to careers in the transportation industry. Through hands-on activities, exhibits and heavy equipment

demonstrations, local high school students will have the opportunity to learn about several exciting transportation-related careers.

The event in Peoria will be held October 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Peoria Expo Gardens, 1601 Northmoor Road, Peoria. The event in Chicago will be held on

October 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Chicago Laborer's Facility, 1900 North Central Avenue, Chicago.

For more information about these events, please visit the website at [www.dot.il.gov/careerday/default.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/careerday/default.html) or contact Career Day Coordinator at 217-785-9051.

## New Video Display in Rest Areas Honoring Tuskegee Airmen

Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider unveiled a new video, honoring the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. The video, featuring original members of the Tuskegee Airmen, is being displayed at the northbound Prairie View rest area on Interstate 57 in Will County, just south of the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail, which was dedicated

by Governor Pat Quinn in February.

"We are so excited for the opportunity to honor and celebrate these American heroes," said Secretary Schneider. "Our hope is that motorists from Illinois and far beyond will learn just how important the contributions of these individuals were, and continue to be, for our country."

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has placed signs to mark the trail, which honors the fighter group's valiant service to the United States in World War II.

Prairie View Rest Area is located at mile marker 333 on I-57. The videos now playing at the rest area are also available on IDOT's YouTube channel.

## 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).

## 16th Annual Transportation Symposium & Business Exchange

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Regional Transportation Authority, Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, Pace and the Illinois Tollway Authority are sponsoring their 16th Annual Transportation Symposium & Business Exchange. The event will be held in Chicago on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at the Chicago Hilton & Towers, 720 S. Michigan Avenue.

The Symposium provides attendees a unique networking opportunity to establish partnerships and broaden business relationships with government agencies, prime contractors, Disadvantaged Business En-

terprises (DBEs) and Minority and Female owned businesses. The types of businesses that attend the Symposium include professional services, construction contractors, manufacturers and suppliers.

This year's Symposium & Business Exchange will include various workshops on doing business with government agencies, agency executive briefings on procurement forecast for the upcoming year, and a networking session with sponsoring transportation agencies one-on-one to explore contracting opportunities and procurement/supplier needs. Additionally, there will be ex-

hibitors from large companies exploring partnership and subcontracting participation.

IDOT and the Transportation Symposium Committee strongly encourages DBEs; Minority Business Enterprises; and Women Business Enterprises to attend.

Pre-registration will begin soon and advance registration is highly recommended.

For more information, contact the Transportation Symposium & Business Exchange Coordinator at 312-454-6100.

## IDOT Honors National Hispanic Heritage Month

Did you know that National Hispanic Heritage Month honors the culture, heritage, and contributions of Hispanic Americans each year? The event began in 1968 when Congress deemed the week including September 15 and 16 National Hispanic Heritage Week to celebrate the contributions and achievements of the diverse cultures within the Hispanic community. The dates were chosen to commemorate two key historic events: Independence Day, honoring

the formal signing of the Act of Independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (September 15, 1821), and Mexico's Independence Day, which denotes the beginning of the struggle against Spanish control (September 16, 1810).

"At IDOT, we have employees from all different cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. "As part of National Hispanic

Heritage month, it gives me great pleasure to highlight our diverse workforce and reiterate how various perspectives and outlooks foster innovation and provide a competitive edge to the agency. As America's Hispanic population continues to grow, we look forward to collaborating even more with Hispanic communities to leverage shared opportunities and represent future generations of workers across Illinois."

## IDOT Revises Engineer Technician Training Program

The Engineer Technician Training Program (ETTP) has been revised to include a longer training period (from ten weeks to semester-long) and has added courses with college-credit for those that successfully complete the program.

This year, the program began in April 2012 and ended in August at Joliet Junior College and the College of Lake County. Twenty-one students success-

fully completed the program and earned a minimum of 16 credit hours. Both community colleges supported students through the challenging training program with counseling and tutoring.

"I attended both graduations, and it is exciting to meet such highly dedicated students. I wish them all great success in their careers," said Erwin Acox, Acting Chief of Diversity

Recruitment and Outreach. Students who successfully complete this year's program were invited to interview with IDOT for entry level Engineer Technician (ET) positions available in Region 1 (Chicago and surrounding area) and Region 2 (Ottawa area).

For more information on ETTP, visit, [http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/engineer\\_technician.aspx](http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/engineer_technician.aspx).

## Notice of September Letting

The Illinois Department of Transportation is preparing for the September letting, scheduled for September 21, 2012. With \$222.9 million in 58 road construction projects anticipated for the September letting, the 2012 construction season is shaping up to be another 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. For the week of August 12-18, 2012, there was an overall workforce of 29.1% minorities and 2.5% female on the MRB project. For more information, visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.

## DBE Spotlight

Primera Engineers, Ltd. (Primera) is a full service engineering design and consulting firm which was founded in 1987. Primera became certified by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and continued as a DBE for several years through the mid 1990s.

As co-founder of Primera and President/CEO of the Transportation and Infrastructure branch, Mr. Pedro Cevallos-Candau knows the impact the IDOT DBE program had on the company's success.

"The experience provided a basis for later working as a prime consultant for IDOT in the mid 1990s. We built a reputation as an established transportation services provider in Illinois," Cevallos-Candau said.

As a Prime Consultant for IDOT, Primera has engaged 30 percent DBE participation and is involved in a mentor-protégé agreement with Graza-Karhoff Engineering.

"The Mentor-Protégé program is a great avenue to begin the development of expertise that will lead to prequalification with IDOT. It provides a great opportunity," Cevallos-Candau said.

Mr. Cevallos-Candau encourages firms participating in the DBE program to make an effort to attract the best talent to your company. The development of a transportation group with talent and expertise in key areas has led to Primera's success in becoming a prominent fixture in Illinois' transportation industry.

Some of the key projects for IDOT where Primera has been involved as a prime consultant are as follows:

- Phase II Design of Illinois Route 62 from Easting's Way to Penny Road
- Phase III Construction Management of I-57 at Manhattan-Monee Road
- Phase II Design for the Rehabilitation of Various Structures in Region 1

For more information on Primera, please visit [www.primeraeng.com/index/](http://www.primeraeng.com/index/).