

## Upcoming Events

### April 10th

Preparing for a  
Letting & Prime/Sub  
Networking Session

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

EIGERlab

605 Fulton Ave

Rockford, IL

Contact:

Kayla McCoy

[kayla.mccoy@illinois.gov](mailto:kayla.mccoy@illinois.gov)

### April 16th

How to Effectively  
Market Your Business  
Workshop

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

DBE Resource Center

900 South Des Plaines  
Street

Chicago, IL

Contact:

Brenda Gold

[Dot.di.resourcectr@illinois.gov](mailto:Dot.di.resourcectr@illinois.gov)

### April 17th

Marketing Your  
Business & Adjusting  
Your Scope of Work  
Workshop

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

EIGERlab

605 Fulton Ave

Rockford, IL

Contact:

Kayla McCoy

[kayla.mccoy@illinois.gov](mailto:kayla.mccoy@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)



# Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters!

April 2013

## Secretary Schneider Announces a New Project Labor Agreement

Under the leadership of Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) continues to make it a priority to increase minority participation on state contracts. The recent announcement of the revised Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is a major step forward for fair and equal opportunity for women and minorities in the construction industry.

In 2011, Governor Quinn signed House Bill 2987 creating the Project Labor Agreement Act to help ensure a diverse, skilled and effective labor force. The law requires the state department, agency, authority or board responsible for awarding the project to negotiate the PLA with labor organizations engaged in the construction industry. As a result, IDOT has worked closely with Gamaliel of

Illinois throughout the process. Members of the organization provided substantial comments to assist us with making the necessary revisions to move this latest Project Labor Agreement forward.

Illinois is leading the way on the number of PLA's nationwide and received the first PLA granted on a federal-aid project under President Obama's administration.

## Summer Technical Program Vacancy Announcement

The Illinois Department of Transportation will post the Summer Technical Program on the department's website at <http://www.dot.il.gov/techapp/vacancy.html> from April 9 through April 22.

Applications will be available during the posting period only.

The Summer Technical Program, is made up of two parts, engineering technicians and non-engineering

technicians and runs June 1 through August 30.

The engineering program is designed to give engineering students an opportunity to obtain on the job training. Only students who have completed a minimum of one year (30 semester hours, 45 quarter hours credit) of college courses in engineering through completion of four or more years in engineering or related curriculum are eligible.

The non-engineering program is designed to give non-engineering students an opportunity to obtain on the job training. High school graduates through students who have completed four or more years of college courses in areas other than engineering are eligible to apply. For additional information, visit our website or call (217) 782-5594.

## General & Sub-Contractors High-Speed Rail Informational Session

Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and IDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and provide bid qualification information for high-speed rail contractor bid submissions on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hilton Springfield Prairie Room at 700 East Adams Street in Springfield, IL.

UPRR, in conjunction with

IDOT, is upgrading about 215 miles of existing track from Chicago to St. Louis, as part of the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail program. This session will provide information about available general contractor and subcontractor opportunities, scale of work, qualifications, schedule and timing for contractor bid submissions.

Contact Jay McAndrew at [jjmccandr@up.com](mailto:jjmccandr@up.com) or 402-544-7267 to RSVP by April 20th as limited space is available on a first come basis. For additional questions, please contact Miriam Gutierrez at [miriam.gutierrez@illinois.gov](mailto:miriam.gutierrez@illinois.gov) or 312-793-4803.

## 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).

## DBE Spotlight

### IDOT Spotlight: Filiberto Sotelo, Safety Evaluation Engineer

Filiberto Sotelo began working as an IDOT Safety Evaluation Engineer April 2011. He continually seeks growth opportunities in his professional and personal life. He is primarily responsible for safety projects ensuring roadway safety but is also involved in numerous activities that allow him to share his love for the engineering field because engineering is about more than math and science. It is about improving the lives of others.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in May 2010 from California State University-Northridge. During college, he was actively involved in many groups including the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers where he first discovered the fulfillment of encouraging others to consider higher education and enter the engineering field.

His dedication earned him an engineering internship with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority

(SCRRA), aka Metrolink, which sparked his interest in the transportation aspect of Civil Engineering. From there he was offered a position with IDOT. Even though the job required relocation, he saw it as an exciting opportunity to pursue his dreams, and thus began his professional engineering career. His most interesting project to date is the high-speed rail diagnostic review of the highway grade crossings. He drew upon his college experiences and became an important part of the innovative concept that will one day change the way we travel.

“My responsibilities not only allow me to have a range of different and unique projects, but also provide the opportunity to engage with people from different offices, colleges and agencies.”

Sotelo inspires students by volunteering for two youth programs; Engineering in the Classroom and Engineering Explorers. Both programs help students reach their full potential in engineering

fields. Engineering in the Classroom provides 5th graders with hands on activities and Engineering Explorers gives high school students opportunities to understand the skills required for success, the academic training needed, the different working environments available and the diverse career paths that exist within the engineering field.

Diversity is important to Sotelo because he comes from a large Hispanic family of seven children. His parents, originally from Mexico City, raised him to value his heritage and respect other cultures and beliefs.

“IDOT offers a diverse workplace where we can all learn from each other. We all come from different parts of the world and bring something unique. This is especially important in the field of engineering because we work a lot with diverse individuals in group tasks, so it is important to adapt.”

### Historical Tidbits: Minorities in Transportation

In this issue, Diversity Matters! takes the opportunity to observe Celebrate Diversity Month.

Even though diversity is narrowly defined as recognizing the collective mixture of individual differences and similarities in people, it extends well beyond race and gender. It is based on recognizing, appreciating, and valuing the unique talents and

contributions of all individuals. Its reach is all-inclusive and may represent categories such as class, race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, physical disabilities, nationalities, political beliefs, and many other categories.

“Even at IDOT, diversity goes beyond race and gender. It is about ideas and viewpoints. Diversity is also one of the guiding principles here at

IDOT. It's important that we stay inclusive and design our efforts and initiatives to increase minority and female workforce participation on IDOT projects and enhance the diversity of our internal workforce,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider.

Celebrate Diversity Month, started in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all.

### 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 March 17-23, 2013, there was an overall workforce of 21.9% minorities and 3.2% female on the MRB project. For more information, please visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.

Exatone, Inc. was formed in November of 1999 by President Exquilynn Stanford-Brown.

She has guided the company to success and to become a trusted full-service pavement painting business that takes pride in completing projects of any size in a timely and professional manner. Ms. Brown learned of IDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program while attending the Turner School of Construction Management Program in 2010 and became DBE Certified in June 2011. She says the DBE program has made all the difference.

“IDOT is a very good vehicle because they lend you every opportunity you need. I can get technical support as well as business support. That's very important as a small business. Resources are available; you just have to take advantage of them. IDOT is one of those agencies that will help you proceed to the next level.”

Ms. Brown believes her persistence and business savvy has paid off. She is confident that with the help of growing DBE opportunities, Exatone, Inc. will continue to thrive and grow.

For more information on Exatone, Inc., please visit <http://exatoneinc.com/>.