

Upcoming Events

July 29th

Estimating & Bidding
Workshop

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
D-1 DBE Resource
Center
900 South Des Plaines
Street
Chicago, IL
Contact:
Kevin Hayes
(312)277-1700

July 31st

Letting Assistance
& Contractor's
Marketplace Extended
Hours

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
D-1 DBE Resource
Center
900 South Des Plaines
Street
Chicago, IL
Contact:
Theo Joyner
(312)419-7260

August 2nd

QuickBooks Training
Series Group 3
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
D-1 DBE Resource
Center
900 South Des Plaines
Street
Chicago, IL
Contact:
RGMA
(312)939-1100

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!

July 2013

IDOT Profile: Joshua C. Griffin, Bureau Chief, OBWD



On June 18, 2013 Joshua C. Griffin was appointed Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Small

Enterprises (SBE) in the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity. A Chicago native, Griffin is one of four siblings. His father, Darin Griffin, is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and his mother, Carolyn Taylor, is an entrepreneur in the South Suburbs of Chicago. Bureau Chief Griffin attended the U.S. Air Force Air University in 2009, where he studied Aviation Operations & Management. In addition, he attended the University of Michigan, majoring in Economics with a minor in Pre-law, and is currently focused on studying for the LSAT exam.

Griffin worked in the U.S. House of Representatives as an intern for the Illinois 2nd Congressional District in 2006 and 2007. He then

served in the Air Force at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, from 2007 to 2009. He then enlisted in the Illinois Air National Guard from 2009 to 2012, flying over 400 hours in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Griffin was assigned to the U.S. Special Operations Command headquarters, Hulbert Field and Air Mobility Command headquarters, Scott Air Force Base.

Griffin also held the title Assistant Regional Training Manager for the Norfolk Southern Railroad Corporation.

In his new role, the Air Force veteran hopes to bring strong leadership skills and other crucial communication skills to the Illinois Department of Transportation. Griffin also hopes to implement three major principles - integrity, professionalism, and commitment to SBE.

"These are the three major pillars that I hold true to when

approaching my job duties and I would like that to be modeled by my employees while working with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) community," said Griffin.

Griffin says he is committed to Governor Pat Quinn's transportation vision to expand opportunities to qualified underutilized minority and women-owned businesses in Illinois. "During my tenure, I hope to expand outreach efforts and make the existing initiatives more visible because publicity of their major programs is essential to any organizations' success. We have a great SBE program that needs to be at the forefront of the agency."

Griffin also shares the vision of the administration to work as a team to expand DBE participation on upcoming projects such as the Illiana Corridor, Circle Interchange, South Suburban Airport, and O' Hare reconstruction.

Record Minority Participation on Mississippi River Bridge Project

Governor Pat Quinn was recently joined by Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider and other officials at the construction site of the newly-named Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.

The project has created or supported more than 3,400 jobs within a record-breaking diverse workforce in Illinois. The new bridge will provide congestion relief, improve safety and spur economic development across the region.

"This bridge has already made a great impact by providing thousands of jobs and boosting

economic activity in the region that will continue for many years to come," said Governor Quinn. Since the start of the bridge project, minorities have made up a weekly average of 26 percent of the total workforce.

The project is a joint undertaking by the Missouri and Illinois departments of transportation. Construction began in 2009 and is expected to be complete by early 2014.

In Illinois, the project has utilized 117 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise companies under contracts providing more than

\$14 million in engineering and construction services, totaling 18.8 percent of the awarded work. Since the start of the bridge project, minorities have made up a weekly average of 26 percent of the total workforce, a record rate of contract participation.

The estimated \$708 million project is funded through a combination of federal and state funds, which includes \$42 million from Governor Quinn's Illinois Jobs Now! capital program. Missouri contributed \$66 million towards the project.

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 Junior College and IDOT Partnership Provides Educational Opportunity

Joliet Junior College's (JJC) Corporate & Community Services has announced a unique educational opportunity that is available to the local community. JJC has partnered with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to offer the Engineer Technician Training Program.

The Engineer Technician Training Program, now in its second year, provides participants with the education and skills needed for the pre-engineering field. This training program also provides the participants with an opportunity to interview for an entry-level engineering position with IDOT.

The training program is a 15-week "boot camp" experience that provides students with a basic understanding about the various aspects of an engineer technician. Engineer technicians at IDOT perform tasks of a technical nature such as investigation planning, design and construction of engineering projects.

The 255-hour training program begins September 2, 2013, and is presented in an accelerated format to cover a variety of areas that include: mathematics, basic engineering, surveying, construction safety, material testing and computer aided design and drafting.

The program combines classroom learning with hands-on experiences to give students a real-world example of what it's like to work as an engineer technician.

Students who are selected to participate must be available Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and all day Saturday throughout the entire program. Classes will be held at JJC's main campus and participants will receive a college-level certificate after successfully completing the training program.

In order to participate, interested candidates must complete an application and interview before a selection

committee that is comprised of JJC staff and IDOT representatives. A passing college placement test is also required as part of the admission process. Those who meet the qualifications and are accepted into the Engineer Technician Training Program will receive free tuition and books as well as a weekly stipend while attending the program.

There are several upcoming information/testing session dates available.

Participants must pre-register to attend one of the information/testing sessions. The application deadline for the Engineer Technician Training Program is August 8, 2013.

For more information or to register, interested candidates should call (815) 280-1400 or email: engineertech@jjc.edu. Training Program details can also be found at: <http://www.trainingupdate.org/Pages/EngineerTechnicianTrainingProgram.aspx>.

First Annual Civil Engineer Trainee Welcome Reception a Huge Success

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) celebrated a landmark Civil Engineering Trainee (CET) recruitment season and the beginning of an annual tradition in June.

To welcome the newly hired CETs, the Office of Diversity Recruitment and Outreach hosted the first annual welcome reception for newly recruited CETs on June 26th. The event, held in Springfield, allowed new CETs an opportunity to network with IDOT officials and to build an environment that fosters the future of IDOT.

Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider spoke at the event inspiring and motivating the CETs and sharing the importance of IDOT projects.

Director of Highways, Omer Osman, offered very moving remarks encouraging civil engineer trainees to learn from their predecessors and be prepared to lead within the next five years.

Representatives from the Illinois Association of Highway Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers were in attendance to share information to support the new CETs budding professional careers.

During the 2013 recruitment season, the Office of Diversity Recruitment and Outreach came into contact with hundreds of students through various career fairs, conferences and webinars and interviewed over 200 candidates for IDOT's CET positions. This group of CETs represented 17 various colleges and universities from around the nation.

"The civil engineer trainee is a coveted role at IDOT, and this was a very competitive recruiting year. After engaging over 600 civil engineering undergrads, less than 10 percent were selected this year to join the department," said Office of Diversity Recruiting & Outreach Chief Erwin L. Acox. "We have an excellent group of

civil engineer trainees who will bring a diverse set of skills to IDOT, which in turn will impact innovation and help us to reach out to a wider audience. Civil engineer trainees are the future leaders and ambassadors of IDOT, and we look forward to their contributions during their careers at IDOT," he further added.

Qualifying candidates for this program need to hold a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from a university certified by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) or be a licensed Engineer Intern in the State of Illinois. There are over 200 universities nationwide with ABET accredited Civil Engineering programs. The State of Illinois has seven universities with programs certified by ABET that offer a degree in Civil Engineering.

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 June 30 - July 6, 2013, there was an overall workforce of 26.9% minorities and 3.4% female on the MRB project. For more information, please visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.