

Upcoming Events

January 2nd

South Suburban
Resource Center
Grand Opening
10:00 am
114 North Orchard
Drive
Park Forest, IL
Contact:
(708) 283-3618

January 8th

Transportation
Research Board
Webinar:
Organizational
and Institutional
Approaches to
Enhance Highway
Operations and Travel
Time Reliability
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
To register, visit:
<https://www.trb.org/main/webinaremailcheck.aspx>

January 8th

Engineering Explorers
Post - College Night
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
2300 S Dirksen
Parkway
Springfield, IL
Contact:
Terrence H. Fountain
(217) 782-4690

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



Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters!

November/December 2013

IDOT Announces Grand Opening of DBE Resource Center

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is excited to announce the opening of the South Suburban Resource Center, a facility that will help Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) companies by providing valuable knowledge for doing business with the State of Illinois.

The center opens Thursday,

January 2, 2014 and is located at 114 North Orchard Drive in Park Forest. A ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. that day to mark the opening of the facility.

As part of IDOT's commitment to providing opportunities for all businesses and the commitment to a diverse workforce, this DBE resource center will assist with DBE certification, provide

workshops on contracting opportunities, give access to bidding documents, offer a computer resource center on site, and will have staff available to help answer questions.

For more information, call (708) 283-3618. Office hours for this location will be Monday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

IDOT Launches New Program to Increase Minority Participation

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently launched the Chicago Urban League Transportation Construction Apprenticeship Readiness Training Program to diversify the workforce in Illinois.

The program is a collaborative effort among Chicago-area community based organizations, the Apprenticeship Skill and

Improvement Program Local 150 and the Chicagoland Laborers District Council Trainers and Apprenticeship Fund, to assure the increased participation of minority groups, disadvantaged persons, and females in all phases of the highway construction industry.

This program is a part of IDOT's vision to utilize new and innovative ways to identify

talent and address emerging trends in transportation.

The program further considers the human capital vision for IDOT's multimodal transportation program to fully incorporate human capital factors to support IDOT's project goals while empowering individuals to realize their full potential in community-based project settings.

Registration Open for Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward DBE Conference

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announces open registration for the Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward (TCTR) Conference to be held on February 25-26, 2014, at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in

Springfield.

This upcoming year will mark the 25th anniversary for the event, which is hosted by IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity.

This year, participants can expect one-on-one opportunities with prime

contractors, workshops on topics specific to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise community and a networking event.

For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/sbe/TCTR/index.html>.

New Agency Website on the Horizon

As a part of Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider's transportation vision, *Transforming Transportation for Tomorrow*, the department is undergoing

a website redesign to better serve the transportation needs of all partners and stakeholders. By incorporating web technologies and customer focused

organization, the department hopes to proactively address the needs of its website visitors.

The website is expected to launch early 2014.

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.

IDOT Recognizes New Civil Engineer Trainee

In 2013, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Office of Diversity Recruitment and Outreach (DRO), hired 42 civil engineering graduates as civil engineer trainees (CET). During this effort, DRO sought the “best and brightest” to join the IDOT ranks. Of the more than 600 graduating students engaged, less than 10 percent were selected in a highly competitive recruitment process.

Josué D. Ortiz- Varela, from the University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez (UPRM) is one of those recruits. Josué started his career at the IDOT in the Bureau of Bridges and Structures in June 2013.

Before coming to IDOT, Josué was busy

building his resume and preparing to start what he hopes becomes a lifelong career in transportation.

In October 2013, he received the Exemplary Student of the Year 2012-2013 by the Institute of Transportation Engineers in Puerto Rico. Josué was noted for his significant contributions in extracurricular activities throughout his college career at UPRM.

He was chosen for a summer internship at the University of Rhode Island as part of the Dwight Davis Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program for Hispanic Serving Institutions, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). During his internship, he was elected by the Transportation Research

Board (TRB) to present his Summer Internship poster at the 91st TRB annual meeting in Washington D.C.

Dr. Benjamin Colucci-Rios, Director of the Puerto Rico Transportation Technology Transfer Center, recruited Josué to join the Transportation Center staff. Among his most notable contributions with the Transportation Center, Josué was significant in helping launch the FHWA Every Day Counts Initiative, specifically the Safety Edge Technology Program in Puerto Rico.

Currently, Josué is working in the IDOT Bureau of Bridges and Structures in the Springfield Central Office.

Dozens of Students Recently Complete IDOT Engineering Academy Program

Preparing today’s youth for tomorrow’s workforce is what the Illinois Department of Transportation’s (IDOT) Engineering Academy Program attempts to accomplish.

School District 89, which includes ten elementary schools in Maywood, Melrose Park and Broadview, recently completed the program this month with 24 students in the group. The students learned about bridge construction by designing and constructing Truss Bridges using Balsa Wood. Teams built

and tested their bridges for “bragging rights” for building the strongest bridge. Students who completed the program also received certificates.

This is by far one of the most requested community programs coordinated by IDOT’s Office of Diversity Recruitment and Outreach (DRO). The program is designed to provide realistic application of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.) through instruction and hands on projects that encourage teamwork and problem solving.

IDOT engineers and others in the transportation engineering industry volunteer to instruct and mentor program participants during the sessions.

The program is offered to junior high and high school aged students and is fashioned with the needs of the educational institution in mind. For more information about the program, contact DRO at (217) 782-2545.

January Letting Announced

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is preparing for the January letting, which is scheduled for January 17, 2014. The January letting is advertising 135 projects totaling

a programmed estimate amount of \$222,795,400. Ten of these projects have a Small Business Initiative designation for a total programmed estimate amount of \$1,461,000. The total weighted

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal for the letting is 13.3 percent.

For more information, visit <http://www.idot.il.gov/desenv/delett.html>.

November Letting E-Bids Results

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is proud to announce the success of its first letting using the agency’s new e-Bids system. There were 79 projects advertised with a programmed estimate amount of \$296,486,000.00 on the November

8, 2013 letting - the first time IDOT accepted electronically submitted bids.

Of the 311 bids received totaling \$1.059 billion, 96 were e-Bids, or 30.9 percent of all bids submitted, for a total amount of \$414,590,890.21. Of the 96 e-Bids, 17 of them have been identified as the

apparent low bidder, for a total amount of \$65,395,941.65.

There are over 100 contractors registered in Vendor Portal who are eligible to bid electronically. E-bids will also be accepted for the January letting.

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 December 8-14, 2013, there was an overall workforce of 21.7% minorities and 4.3% female on the MRB project. For more information, visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.