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NJ Board of Public Utilities Holds Annual Supplier Diversity Conference

Piscataway, N.J. - The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Supplier Diversity Development Council (SDDC) today held its annual conference at Rutgers University. The event is designed to help diverse business owners, particularly those who are minority, women, and service disabled veteran-owned businesses (M/W/SDVBEs), understand how they can obtain potential contracting opportunities from the state's utilities.

This year, the SDDC, honored veterans with a color guard salute and other acknowledgements.

“The SDDC provides opportunities for regulated utilities and diverse suppliers to work together to fill the utilities’ business needs,” said NJBPU President Richard S. Mroz. “Encouraging diversity is not only the right thing to do, but it also is an investment in New Jersey’s economy, and helps to create jobs.”

Today’s event showcased the diversity efforts encouraged by the SDDC and the state’s regulated utilities. The conference’s presenters advised the representatives of minority-owned firms what they have to do to qualify for a contract, made it clear to them what they need to think of when bidding on a contract, and provided information on requirements they may need to implement internally to be in a position to win and successfully complete a contract.

“In particular, one of the areas where minority, women, and service disabled veteran-owned businesses must make sure they have all their bases covered is cybersecurity. A supplier’s ability to show that they maintain appropriate cybersecurity safeguards will enhance their opportunities for potential agreements,” said President Mroz.”

The SDDC also offers prospective suppliers an avenue to improve their financial strength so they are capable of pursuing and fulfilling contracts with the regulated utilities. The SDDC helps potential contractors attract business from the utilities and their prime suppliers via conferences and the new SDDC website: www.njbpusupplierdiversity.com

At this year's event, select attendees had the opportunity to individually present their products and services directly to utilities and their prime contractors via match making sessions in order to foster potential business opportunities.

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The Supplier Diversity Development Council (SDDC) is dedicated to forging effective working relationships among minority, women, and service disabled veteran-owned businesses (M/W/SDVBES), New Jersey public utilities and the Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) on matters relating to methods of reporting, measuring, and assessing the development of these relationships.

The SDDC serves as a resource to identify "best practices" and to promote related support activities and seminars for both companies and M/W/SDVBES. In order to enhance the advancement of mutual goals, the SDDC promotes the adoption of "best practices" and processes that provide equal access for M/W/SDVBES to companies. The SDDC's commitment to its mission will enhance supplier diversity amongst New Jersey companies, resulting in the development of a strong economy and a productive environment for the growth of business throughout the state.

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For additional information regarding the SDDC, please contact keisha@womenpresidentsorg.com.