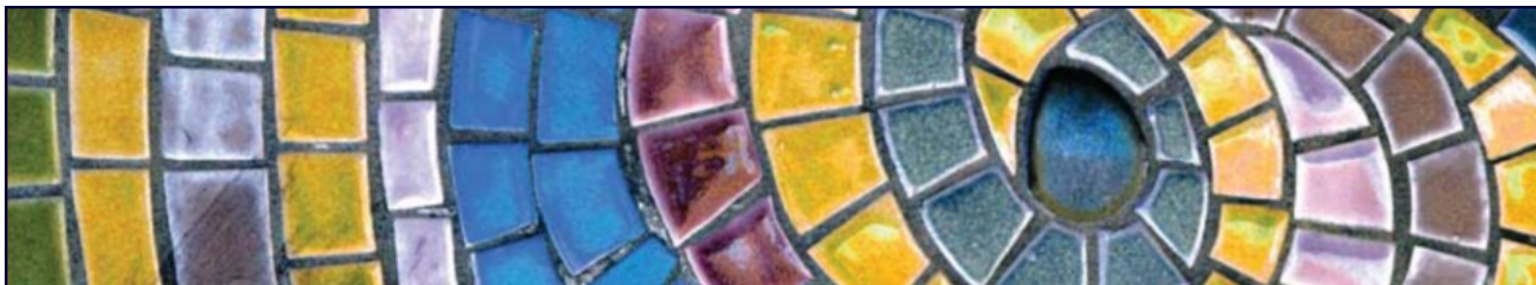


## Office of Business and Financial Services



# Procurement Diversity Quarterly Connection

Vol.2 No.2  
November 2019

### Director's Note

Greetings,

The Office of Procurement Diversity is pleased to bring you the latest edition of the Quarterly Connection newsletter!

As always we hope you find the newsletter helpful and informative.

We will continue to bring you highlights from the university and business community as well as procurement news to help you stay in the know.

I've enjoyed working with you and learning from all of you. We couldn't do it without you.

Please feel free to [email](#) us and share comments or suggestions on newsletter content.

Kind Regards  
-Sharla

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The UIUC Technology Services department receives the Diverse Partnership award presented by President Timothy L. Killeen.

## Hundreds Attend Second Annual Diverse Business Opportunity Fair at UIUC

The iHotel, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, proved to be a lively host on August 28 for the second annual Diverse Business Opportunity Fair, an event for bringing together small, diverse businesses and those who purchase goods and services in one room to learn how the university does business.

The event kicked off with the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion Dr. Sean Garrick giving remarks to encourage the audience to work to-

gether on finding solutions to ensure diverse firms are included in the procurement process and throughout the university and community.

It was standing room only as attendees worked the room to network with more than 50 exhibits included UIUC departments, state public universities, state and assist agencies, and large prime businesses eager to makes connections.

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## In the Spotlight

### IEI Seeks Opportunities to Pay it Forward



Getting a college education was a key step on Michael Sutton's path to success. One of nine children in a single-parent home in Chicago public housing, Sutton became the founder and CEO of Infrastructure Engineering Inc. (IEI), a civil engineering firm

headquartered in Chicago with three other offices and 80 employees in three states. His appreciation for the difference education makes is why he wants his minority-owned firm to be part of exciting plans for the University of Illinois System.

One such plan is a research partnership between the U of I System and IIT. "It's the kind of innovative, transformational work that we thrive on," Sutton said. "Whether as a PRIME contractor or subcontractor."

IEI's enthusiasm for challenging work is reflected in its proven track record which includes:

- **Chicago Riverwalk** - IEI performed civil site engineering and assessments of navigational traffic on the Chicago River and of the build-out impact on the waterway system, existing buildings, and utilities.
- **Jackson Park** - IEI worked on a total redesign to accommodate the Obama Presidential Campus. Designs for rerouted traffic, new and widened roads, and improved sidewalks, ADA ramps, traffic signals, street lighting, and viaducts were completed through a joint venture with Civiltech Engineering.

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### Get to know EKI-Digital



EKI-Digital is a MBE/DBE certified IT strategy and implementation firm that closes the gap between technology capabilities and business needs. University of Illinois System staff can utilize our services the KRS102 contract, categories 1, 3, 5, and 6.

We have a 20-year history of consistently delivering solutions that break technology barriers and enable business transformation. Lean Digital Design-Build is a systematic framework we use for identifying, valuing, and realizing digital opportunities that optimize stakeholder value and ecosystem economics. It is a comprehensive set of implementation-oriented capabilities that deliver business value via architecture-driven technology.

Whether you are looking to reimagine an entire IT footprint, rationalize a part of an application portfolio, modernize legacy systems, or align service delivery to stakeholder value, our Lean Digital Design-Build enables you to deliver lean operations and compelling stakeholder experiences confidently.

EKI-Digital digitized one of the largest municipal parks district's major business processes and drove significant efficiencies in operations and communications. To deliver these results, EKI-Digital planned and implemented a SharePoint based Enterprise Content Management solution for the automation of 146 CPD workflows across 33 departments, taking most of the organization paperless in a 24-month effort.

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## State of Illinois Chief Procurement Office Small Business Set-Aside – Incentive to Help Small Businesses Grow and Prosper

The state's goal is to award 10% of state contracts to qualified small businesses in Illinois.



The Illinois Procurement Code allows the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) to designate categories of contracts as set-asides for small businesses.

While the universities do not currently have a small business set-aside program, we do still gather data regarding contracts awarded to small businesses and report annually in conjunction with the other CPOs.

Under certain conditions, the CPO requires state agencies to purchase only from qualified Illinois small busi-

nesses. If a state agency is making a one-time procurement of less than \$100,000, or procuring in any of more than 600 product/service categories at any dollar amount, then the state agency will only solicit offers from SBSP vendors with large businesses for state awards and contracts.

Visit the [Illinois CPO website](#) to learn more about the Small Business Set-Aside Program, and search for small businesses using the CPO's Illinois Procurement Gateway at [ipg.ven-dorreg.com](#).



## Picture This: 2019 Diverse Business Opportunity Fair





## IEI (Continued from Page 2)

- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** - IEI produced project design reports including existing pavement evaluation, soil boring data reviews, and technical construction specifications for existing and proposed roadway plans.
- **Maggie Daley Park** - IEI served as the structural and civil engineering firm of record for this world-class park constructed atop an existing parking garage.
- **20-plus years** - IEI boasts more than two decades of public and private experience in engineering design, program management, construction engineering and inspection services for airports, highways, railways, sites development and water management.

IEI attributes its success to its core tenet called **INGENUITY**. It's the application of strategic thinking to meeting functional client goals and dramatically exceeding them – creatively, affordably and on time.

The company also focuses on projects that reflect its core value – to enhance the quality of life in the communities it serves. IEI employees, several of whom are U of I System graduates, are involved in community organizations. In 2009 the firm established a foundation to give back to economically challenged families in Chicago, Peoria, Springfield, Indianapolis, and New York.

IEI believes that institutions such as the University of Illinois System demonstrate a similar commitment to community. And Michael Sutton looks forward to new opportunities through a diverse staff, to pay his education forward.

Get to know IEI better! Visit [infrastructure-eng.com](http://infrastructure-eng.com) and follow IEI on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/infrastructure-engineering).



IEI celebrated its 20th Anniversary with the dedication of a park bench in Maggie Daley Park.

## Events



### » Event Survey:

Annual Construction Summit on November 4 in Chicago. Thank you for attending the event! We appreciate your feedback. Please click the link below to complete a short survey.

[go.uillinois.edu/ConstructionSummit2019](http://go.uillinois.edu/ConstructionSummit2019)

## EKI-Digital (Continued from Page 2)

EKI-Digital's work produced a client-confirmed 30% improvement in efficiency with the following benefits:

- Paperless processes
- Unlocked approval gridlock
- Accessible knowledge
- Effective records management

Where others see obstacles, we see opportunities to maximize efficiencies on every technology dollar spent by accelerating service delivery, eliminating waste, optimizing stakeholder experiences, and managing outcomes.

Get to know EKI better at [eki-digital.com](http://eki-digital.com).

## Diversity Business Opportunity Fair

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This year's fair also included a panel discussion from university senior staff. The panel discussed diversity topics such as specific steps that departments are taking to increase diverse participation, and how their departments interact with diverse firms and university procurement in reaching goals.

"It's always great to come down to Champaign and connect with the buyers on this campus," said Jeff Trask, owner of T&J Distribution, a supply company based in Champaign.

"It helps to meet people face-to-face and ask questions to determine what their needs and pain points are. Then we can work together to find a solution that works in both of our favor," Trask ended.

Festivities continued into the evening for a network reception and remarks from President Timothy L. Killeen who reiterated the importance of diversity theme for the night. "It is all about inclusion and opportunity and giving everyone an equal opportunity to succeed and, in turn, help lift the fortunes of the world around them," Killeen stated.

The networking event included the presentation of awards while the crowd enjoyed Caribbean cuisine such as jerk chicken and meatballs catered by a popular minority-owned business, [Caribbean Grill](http://CaribbeanGrill.com).

Two diverse firms were awarded with the Diverse Partnership Award. Antwuan Neely, owner of [Sierra Glass](http://SierraGlass.com), and Cindy Davis, owner of [Resource One Furniture](http://ResourceOneFurniture.com), were acknowledged for doing business at the university and their significant success over the past year.

The Champion of Diversity Award was presented to the [Technology Services](http://TechnologyServices.com) department for their instrumental role in sourcing diverse IT vendors and utilizing the [KRS102](http://KRS102.com) contract over the past few years.