

# Procurement Diversity Quarterly Connection

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## Director's Note

Greetings,

As many of you remain working from home and taking care of your families, we encourage you to remain steadfast, creative, and most importantly remain positive.

We are proud to see businesses evolving to expand their service options. Many of you have found innovative pathways in technology. Technology will become even more important to our day-to-day living. The lines between what we do online and in real life will begin to blur.

Although this is no easy feat, we will continue working with the business community and strategic partners to find solutions that help us all come out of this better, stronger, and more successful.

As always, the Office of Procurement Diversity is here for you.

Kind Regards

-Sharla

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## Leveraging Online Platforms: Virtual Meet & Greets

Zoom, zoom, zoom...whether its Zoom, Microsoft Teams, WebEx or other online platforms, the effects of COVID-19 have called for businesses and organizations to find opportunities to thrive in new ways. Virtual events have incredible potential for growth in audience engagement and provide other benefits such as: greater audience reach, low marketing and operating cost, and are easier to manage.

For the past several months, the Office of Procurement Diversity has been hosting virtual "Meet & Greets" to provide diverse firms and organizations such as the state's Business Enterprise Program (BEP), Black Contractors Owners and Executives (BCOE), and university Purchasing departments an opportunity to share, educate, and connect with larger audiences more frequently.

Of course there are some drawbacks to virtual meet & greets, but attendance has shown that people are eager to get their

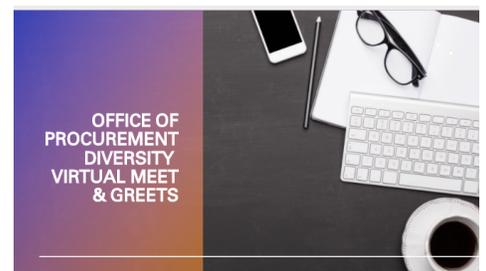
name out there, share information, learn about local and state resources, and ultimately—grow their business.

We encourage university staff and our partners to continue attending as many events as possible to ensure you are meeting diverse businesses and keeping them in mind for potential opportunities.

*"We appreciate the opportunity to present in front of the stakeholders and introduce our company. Like most small businesses, we have become more fluid and adjusted our offerings to better meet our clients' needs in this climate. We are always looking for ways to reach out and share our capabilities."*

- Creative Content Development Group

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OFFICE OF  
PROCUREMENT  
DIVERSITY  
VIRTUAL MEET  
& GREETS

## In the Spotlight

### World of Promotions - "Treat your customers as you would treat yourself"



World of Promotions

World of Promotions, a certified WBE, is one of the awardees under the advertising and marketing products contract 1SLE1702 for all of the Illinois state universities. World of Promotions provides shirts, jackets, bags, pens, mugs, USB, hand sanitizer, water bottle, table covers, retractable banners, lapel pins, masks, desk shields, and much more to universities around the state. [AWORLDOFPROMOTIONS.COM](http://AWORLDOFPROMOTIONS.COM), carries more than 1,000,000 different promotional items that can be customized with your logo.

Its custom promotional items make great corporate promotional gifts, trade show giveaways and employee gifts. Imprinted promotional products can be used to market a business creatively, advertise a fund-raising event, build customer loyalty, thank employees, provide team incentives, and promote safety. The right promotional corporate gift or promo product will leave a positive lasting impression.

World of Promotions was created 17 years ago as a fashion designer for clothing. Due to high requests from customers for branded products, the company shifted its focus to promotional items. Since then, it has been supplying promotional items to customers nationally. [Continued on Page 3](#)

## Procurement & Purchases

### Small Purchase Policy Reminder

University departments seeking diverse vendors for purchases greater than or equal to \$10,000 and under the small purchase limit shall solicit at least one quote from a Business Enterprise Program (BEP) certified diverse vendor or State Use - Sheltered Workshop. Details can be found here: <https://www.obfs.uillinois.edu/purchases/procedures-rules/bid-limits/>

### South Coast Paper Now Automated

Ordering South Coast "Destiny" paper and the 30% Recyclable Letter Size copy paper in iBuy and Central Stores is now automated.

### Industrial Electric Supply (IES) Award

Need electrical supplies or install services? Look no further! IES is a privately-owned, full line, and full-service wholesale electrical distributor for complete lines of electrical, lighting, industrial, data and telecommunications networking products, wire and cable, tools and safety equipment. IES is a WMBE and DBE looking forward to meeting your needs. This IPHEC2020 award can be utilized by other IPHEC schools and community colleges. Visit the IES website for more information at <https://www.industrialelectricsupply.com/>



## Resources

**Illinois Policy** is an independent organization generating public policy solutions aimed at promoting personal freedom and prosperity in Illinois.

For more information on where Illinois small businesses can get government financial help, visit <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/where-illinois-small-businesses-can-get-government-financial-help/>.

**Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce** exists to empower Black enterprises in order to strengthen Black communities. For details on important news, events, and local chamber information, visit <https://www.ilbcc.org/>.

**Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council** is a premier organization for increasing business opportunities between buying organizations and minority-owned businesses. To learn more, visit <http://www.chicagomsdc.org/index>

**Hispanic American Construction Industry (HACIA)** works to ensure the equitable participation of its members in the construction industry, while also promoting growth, quality of work, professionalism and integrity of these individuals and businesses. For more information, visit <https://www.haciaworks.org/>



# World of Promotions

(Cont. from Page 2)

Most of World of Promotions contracts are long term, expanding over five years. From small to large customers, World of promotions appreciates each one. "We are well aware that our customers have so many choices, and we are thankful for each of them and do our best to show them our appreciation by giving them the best pricing and services." President NAME HERE

Today like many businesses, worldwide, World of Promotions had to change the way it does business due to COVID-19. For the past six months, instead of promotional items, the company began stocking PPE items, such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, wipes, desk shields, and sneeze shields to meet its customer's needs.

"We try our best to supply the customer the best products at competitive pricing, and so far, we've been successful."

Slowly things are getting back to normal and many of World of Promotions' customers are back to ordering pens, bags, t-shirts, water bottles, and masks.

"We guarantee personal, friendly service, 100% satisfaction and low prices. Our slogan is, "Treat your customer as you would treat yourself!" We make sure every customer is not only a customer, but a partner in our success."

World of Promotions: Phone 847-439-7930, [www.aworldofpromotions.com](http://www.aworldofpromotions.com)



**PPE Items**  
Contact us for quotes!  
[info@worldofpromotions.com](mailto:info@worldofpromotions.com)  
847-439-7930

ACCOR CASINOS  
WE CARE ABOUT YOU

# Meet & Greets

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## Snapshot of Participants in Recent Meet & Greets:

HOH Architects - HOH has 60+ years in architecture, construction management, and professional engineering.

Federations of Women Contractors - Women business owners and contractors capable of meeting your upcoming construction project needs.

Iyka Enterprises - Big Data solution provider, helping organizations make data-driven insights an integral component of their organizational culture.

Bowa Construction - A minority-owned firm that has provided general contracting, construction management, and design-build services for over 25 years.

To learn more, upcoming events, Q&As and past presentations are posted [here](#).



## Reminders

### Complete the Illinois Census 2020 by Today!

The deadline for completing the census is September 30, 2020. Governor Pritzker is committed to ensuring Illinoisans get their fair share of federal resources and Congressional representation by encouraging the full participation of all Illinoisans in the 2020 Census.

Visit <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=117935>

### Your Vote Counts!

Millions of people are requesting the vote by mail ballot online? Have you?

Learn more about the vote by mail ballot and Illinois polling locations here: <https://www.elections.il.gov/>

