



## Procurement Diversity Quarterly Connection

June 2022  
Vol.4 No.3

### Director's Note

Greetings,

Welcome to the summer edition of the quarterly newsletter. I hope that you and your families are enjoying the weather and spending time outdoors.

This time of the year typically means vacation and slowing down at the university. For the business community, this time of the year is often busy with planning and developing new products and services to offer in the fall. Whichever the case may be, I encourage you to take time to refuel and regroup so that you continue to have a productive year.

My office is gearing up for the Diverse Supplier Development Program launch this fall. We are excited for this partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation, Gies College of Business, and corporate partners such as Chase Bank. This virtual program will provide student-led consulting services and monthly workshops to over 25 small, diverse firms to help them take their business to the next level.

As always, please stay connected. We are here to help.

Kind Regards,  
Sharla

### Celebrate Freedom - Juneteenth

Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.

#### Educate and Celebrate

It's important to talk about Juneteenth in your organization and choose how to celebrate the day. Inviting diversity, equity, and inclusion leaders or advocates to discuss the holiday and the appropriate context is a great way to engage with employees and encourage employees to participate.

#### Guest Speaker

This Juneteenth, the Office of Procurement Diversity invited the Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce (ILBCC) President, Larry D. Ivory to speak. The Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce (ILBCC) is the largest, most active voice for African American businesses in the state of Illinois.

"Our objective is to help promote job creation and growth amongst African American businesses.



Subsequently, ILBCC has emerged to become the leading advocate and go-to source for many state and local entities as well as corporations to promote these very principles.

Through its strong membership base and network of local chapters, ILBCC proactively works to promote a healthier business climate and economic empowerment through entrepreneurship.

Mr. Ivory spoke to attendees from various Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield units about Juneteenth, how to engage with black-owned businesses, and how ILBCC is a partner and resource to the University of Illinois.

Attendees asked questions and were eager to learn more about how to find black-owned businesses in their community and how to help point them in the right direction in regards to resources and opportunities.

For further inquiries and information on upcoming ILBCC events, please email [kfisher@ilbcc.org](mailto:kfisher@ilbcc.org) or visit <https://ilbcc.org/>.

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# Welcome

## Aaron Carter, Assistant Vice President of Procurement



It was recently announced that Aaron Carter was appointed the new Assistant Vice President for Procurement Services. In his new role, Aaron will lead the system units of Procurement Diversity, Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC), System Purchasing, and University Payables to provide superior customer service and partner with our three universities in leading all purchasing, strategic sourcing, accounts payables and travel activity.

Aaron is no stranger to the university. Since 2015 he has served as Assistant Vice President with IPHEC where his responsibilities include sourcing, diversity, technology, legislation, and coordination and relationship management with the State's numerous oversight agencies. He has nearly 15 years of experience directing purchasing, procurement, and business operations in the public sector.

Congratulations on your new role, Aaron. We are looking forward to having you as our fearless leader.

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## IT Vendor Roadshow

Calling all IT professionals and IT department users! The IT Diversity Ambassador Program is kicking off with an IT Vendor Roadshow on July 26 at UIUC and July 27 at UIC.

### What is the Ambassador program?

The IT Diversity Ambassador Program was created to encourage IT professionals to take an active role in their department and on campus to promote the awareness of using the [IT Consulting Contract: IPHEC2140](#). This is a Sheltered Market contract awarded to 53 BEP certified firms. It is also an opportunity to meet the firms on the contract and learn about their capabilities.

Other program goals include:

- Create a dialogue about using diverse IT and other firms for small and large purchases.
- Coordinate outreach initiatives that support the dialogue and provide IT firms a platform for showcasing their capabilities.
- Offer guidance and tips on how to successfully utilize diverse firms.
- Serve as open-minded representatives and advocates for Supplier Diversity System-wide.



As an ambassador, IT professionals know more about their needs, the gaps, and the lines of business in their departments. This role has the opportunity to increase engagement within the university IT community and beyond.

### Roadshow

To kick off the Ambassador Program and engage with IT firms on the award, OPD will host a series of in-person events on the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign campuses. These events will be in collaboration with campus IT, HR, Finance, and Purchasing staff in partnership with IT vendors to share information and give the vendors an opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities.

The Roadshow will be a great opportunity to get to know the end users and the firms on the award. **Please email [procurementdiversity@uillinois.edu](mailto:procurementdiversity@uillinois.edu) if you or someone in your unit is interested.**

## Tools You Can Use

Vendors: Register your business on these four State of Illinois Bulletins to learn about upcoming opportunities, download solicitations, and receive email notifications for all new solicitations, addendums, and award notices:

- [CPO for Illinois Procurement Bulletin](#)
- [CPO for General Services](#)
- [CPO For Capital Development Board](#)
- [CPO for Illinois Department of Transportation](#)

## In the Spotlight

### Big Data, Big Solutions, IYKA Enterprises

Iyka Ent. is a well-established diversity certified (MBE/WBE) company servicing commercial, SLED, and Federal clients since 2000. Iyka offerings include IT Staffing, IT consulting, application development, and enterprise advanced data analytics available on the IT Consulting IPHEC2140 contract. Iyka will be show-casing it's innovative software platform, Incorta, at the IT Vendor Roadshow next month.



#### What is Incorta?

Incorta is an analytics platform that top universities use to drive efficiencies in operational costs and reporting. Iyka has decades of experience in Big Data analytics, however, using Incorta has been a game changer in finding solutions to complex data. Incorta provides an all-in-one unified data and analytics platform that is built for business agility. Its unique technology unlocks the full potential of application data within complex source systems, eliminates traditional data transformation and aggregation steps, and delivers 100% of usable data to the business. Incorta also makes packaged analytics applications available for various systems like Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS), with prebuilt dashboards, KPIs, and schemas for specific financial modules such as payables, fixed assets, general ledger, and sub-ledger accounting.

*"By implementing Incorta, we went from almost a total absence of reporting to immediate access to virtually real-time information. We're seeing a big increase in productivity and the feedback from our users is incredibly positive. This is a huge win for us." --  
Business Systems Manager, Land & Buildings  
Department, Top 10 U.S. University*

#### Other Benefits

Incorta works with universities to provide access to near real-time data for self-service reporting across universities' disparate geographic locations, departments and user types. With Incorta, universities can aggregate large, complex business data at blazing fast speeds, eliminating the need for a data warehouse and unnecessary, time-consuming ETL processes. Additionally, with Incorta's easy implementation and ongoing management, universities can load and analyze data with immediacy, enabling analytic applications to be rolled out in days instead of months. During COVID, Incorta also played a pivotal role in supporting universities by giving them virtually real-time information to track and trace COVID cases.

#### What type of departments can benefit from using Incorta?

This innovative solution can support financial management, HR staffing analytics, help desk metrics, facilities and fleet management and COVID tracking/tracing. With Incorta, universities have been able to cut costs, use fewer resources and offer self-service reporting at speed enabling increased productivity across the business groups.

#### Want to see how it works for your data projects?

Iyka offers the most innovative SaaS based Big Data analytics platform that is set up in weeks instead of months and enables the end-user to do analytics in a near real-time with minimal assistance from the IT department. Iyka is offering risk free "proof of value" to prospects and customers. Reach out today and schedule your consultation!

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