



For Immediate Release
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State to host Minority Business and Resource Symposium March 25 at King Center

COLUMBUS – Representatives of minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses are invited to attend a Minority Business and Resource Symposium to learn how to do business with the State of Ohio.

The symposium, which is sponsored by the Office of Governor Ted Strickland and the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 25 at the King Arts Complex, 867 Mount Vernon Ave., Columbus.

Attendees will learn about two state certification programs and network with key state officials and legislators.

"The symposium is an effort on behalf of the state to further promote and build relationships with minority, women and small businesses throughout Ohio," said Director Hugh Quill of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

Entrepreneurs will receive advice regarding business opportunities with the state from state officials as well as from other business leaders. Participants will have the opportunity to meet state purchasing agents as well as representatives from the state's Minority Business Enterprise and EDGE programs, which are designed to help facilitate access to state government contracts and business services.

The Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program is the state's minority business set-aside program. EDGE – which stands for Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity – is a business and economic development program for economically and socially disadvantaged businesses.

For more information about the Minority Business and Resource Symposium, please contact Patrice Davis, outreach coordinator with the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, at 614.466.8380 or visit das.ohio.gov/eod.