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Media contact: Marty Berkowitz
Phone: 614-644-8608
Email: marty.berkowitz@das.ohio.gov

Ohio Business Expo attracts more than 180 businesses



Ohio Business Expo participants had the opportunity to network with purchasing representatives from more than 70 state agencies, boards, commissions and universities as well as representatives from the construction industry during the April 19 event at the Ohio History Center in Columbus. (Image courtesy of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.)

COLUMBUS – More than 180 business owners attended the State of Ohio Business Expo held Tuesday, April 19 at the Ohio History Center in Columbus.

The state hosted the expo to support continued efforts to expand access to state contracts for minority-owned, women-owned and small businesses as part of the initiative to increase the business the state conducts with companies certified through the state's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) programs.

During the opening ceremony, Lt. Governor Mary Taylor discussed the great strides the state has made to diversify its supplier base but discussed the need to move to the next level. "If we don't keep our foot on the gas, we won't continue to move forward," Taylor said.

Business owners had the opportunity to network with purchasing representatives from more than 70 state agencies, boards, commissions and universities as well as representatives from the construction industry. Attendees were able to choose from among eight workshops and were given access to a computer lab to begin the certification process.

The expo was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and the Ohio Development Services Agency.

For more information about the MBE and EDGE programs, visit das.ohio.gov/eod.