



Development  
Services Agency



Department of Administrative Services

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## **Business owners invited to network with government purchasing officials in Athens**

*May 19 event targets current, prospective EDGE firms*

ATHENS – To support continued efforts to expand access to state contracts for minority-owned, women-owned and small businesses, the State of Ohio is hosting “EDGE Business Connection: Resources to Grow Minority-Owned, Women-Owned and other Small Businesses.” This networking event will be held Tuesday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Innovation Center at Ohio University.

The Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) program helps facilitate access to state government contracts and business services for socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

“This is an excellent opportunity for owners of current and prospective EDGE-certified businesses to network with government purchasing officials and learn more about opportunities to grow their companies,” said Robert Blair, director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which is sponsoring the event in partnership with the Ohio Development Services Agency and the Ohio University Procurement Technical Assistance Center.

In addition to networking with procurement officials, the event will include six workshops and an on-site computer lab. In the computer lab, assistance will be available to help business owners to begin the application for EDGE certification and to register with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services’ Office of Procurement Services’ eBid System.

The workshops will cover forming joint ventures, accessing capital and free business resources, accessing sub-contracting opportunities, using agency expenditure projection plans and doing business with state agencies, including the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

The event is free and open to the public.

The Innovation Center is located at 340 W. State St., Athens, Ohio, 45701.

Online registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. To register or learn more about this event or the EDGE program, visit the Ohio Department of Administrative Services website at: [das.ohio.gov/edgersvp](http://das.ohio.gov/edgersvp) or call 614-466-8380. The online registration deadline is May 13.

For information about the Minority Business Assistance Centers operated by the Ohio Development Services Agency, visit [minority.ohio.gov](http://minority.ohio.gov) or call 614-466-5700.