



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media contact: Molly O'Reilly
(614) 644-0194
Molly.O'Reilly@das.state.oh.us

State to assist businesses at reverse trade fair Tuesday

Columbus — Representatives of minority-owned, women-owned and socially or economically disadvantaged businesses are invited to attend a Reverse Trade Fair to meet state agencies interested in doing business.

The fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17 at the Rhodes Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus.

The Reverse Trade Fair is part of the state's efforts to improve access to government contracts for goods and services and increase the number of companies certified to participate in the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) programs overseen by the DAS Equal Opportunity Division. The state's commitment to these programs was reinforced in an executive order signed by Governor Ted Strickland last year.

"Business and Government: A Winning Team" is the theme for the fair, which is sponsored by the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS), which is one of more than 75 state entities participating in the fair.

In addition to speaking with purchasing officials from state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges and universities and learning about opportunities to do business with the state, non-certified businesses will be able to apply for MBE and/or EDGE certification at the fair.

Admission to the fair is free. Parking is \$5.

Walks-in are welcome, but preregistration is available. To register for the fair or for more information about the fair or the EDGE or MBE programs, please visit the DAS Equal Opportunity Division Web site at www.das.ohio.gov/eod or call (614) 466-8380.