COLUMBUS – Approximately 300 business owners attended the State of Ohio Business Expo held Wednesday, March 25 at the Aladdin Shrine Center, Columbus.

The state hosted the expo to support continued efforts to expand access to state contracts for minority-owned, women-owned and small businesses. In addition to opportunities to network with state procurement professionals and diversity procurement representatives from select private companies, attendees participated in workshops including a panel discussion featuring four business owners who shared their success stories as businesses who landed contracts with the state after being certified through the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program or the Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) program.

Sharing their strategies, which included research and networking, were (from left) Mohan Viddam of Halcyon Solutions, Dublin; Veronica Green of MediGreen Medical Supplies & Services, Dayton; Todd Q. Adams of Visibility Marketing, Cleveland; and Theresa Harris of TMH Solutions, Powell. 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. (Photo by Mike Elicson.)