



State of Illinois  
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
March 24, 2017

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## ***Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward* Conference Offers Opportunity to Grow Illinois Businesses**

*IDOT event helps minority- and female-owned firms advance skills*

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Department of Transportation conference *Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward* will take place March 27 and 28 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center, providing minority- and female-owned firms excellent opportunities to build partnerships and learn invaluable information to help grow their business.

“Under the leadership of Governor Rauner, the Illinois Department of Transportation is committed to increasing diversity and opening up opportunities on state projects,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. “Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward is doing exactly that by helping Illinois firms network, learn important skills and find out what we at IDOT are doing to make our programs even more inclusive. One of our top priorities is to grow our state's businesses and create more opportunities for the people of Illinois.”

The annual conference, hosted by IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity, offers skill-building workshops, seminars on best practices and networking opportunities for firms and contractors wanting to do business with the state through the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.

Topics that will be covered include: documentation and U-plans, prevailing wages, small business tax filing, business management and more. Presentations will be made on what IDOT is doing to enhance its DBE program and how firms can take advantage of the department's DBE Supportive Services program.

The event is well attended by subcontractors and prime contractors in construction, trucking, engineering design and other consulting services. This year's conference features a motivational speech by actress and author Kim Coles.

For more information, including a conference schedule, visit [here](#).