



Diversity Matters!

MAY/JUNE 2011

STEM Program Inspires Future Transportation

In April, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) concluded a seven month science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program with two local high schools in the Chicago area. In 2010, STEM Programs of Study were identified as one of the key education reform initiatives that would help promote college and career readiness for all learners. The STEM education program teams up private sector companies or public agencies to compete and collaborate on real world, problem-based learning challenges. It is designed to improve student achievement and prepare young adults for a successful adult life. IDOT engaged Niles West High School and Carl Schurz High School in two unique problem-based learning challenges. Niles West was tasked to research, design, and model a feasible solution for an alternative energy high-speed rail system that goes from Chicago to St. Louis. In addition, Niles West investigated the feasibility of increasing the speed of the rail system from 110 miles per hour to 220 miles per hour. The Carl Schurz Automotive Academy recommended advancements in IDOT's motor vehicle pool through the use of a hybrid, solar/electrical car. Each school presented innovative research, while promoting IDOT's mission to enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity, and demonstrate respect for our environment.

IDOT to Provide Employment Information at Veterans Fairs

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) participates in community and job fairs geared toward veterans to help ensure that Illinois veterans have the information they need to assist them with the application and testing process, which gives them every opportunity to be placed on the Highway Maintainer eligibility list.

In May, IDOT will participate in the following job fair events:

May 17 Veterans Job Fair

(hosted by the Illinois Department of Employment Security) Illinois National Guard Armory 10451 N. 2nd St. Rockford, IL 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Free and open to the public.

May 19 Veterans Job Fair

(hosted by Illinois Department of Employment Security and Triton College) Triton College 2000 Fifth Ave. River Grove, IL 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Restricted to Armed Forces Veterans and not open to the

general public.

May 26 Memorial Day Veterans Employment & Resource Fair

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center 820 S. Damen Ave. Chicago, IL

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

June 8 Veterans Job Fair

(hosted by the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs and Employment Security) American Legion - Post 365 1022 Vandalia St. (Rt. 159) Collinsville, IL

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

IDOT will be on hand to provide information about the Highway Maintainer position. The starting salary for Highway Maintainers is \$4,226 per month. Applications should be submitted to the state's hiring agency, the Department of Central Management Services (CMS). Applicants must complete the Highway Maintainer Test with CMS. Veterans, by law, are given hiring preference for highway maintainer positions. The main requirement

for Highway Maintainer jobs is possession of an Illinois Class "A" Commercial Driver's License, with an endorsement "N" (tankers) or "X" (tankers with hazardous materials) and non-restricted air-brakes.

Highway Maintainers work from IDOT maintenance yards, driving and operating heavy duty maintenance trucks, including plows and salt spreaders, tractors, mowers, pavement-marking equipment and other heavy equipment. The position involves arduous manual labor. Highway Maintainers are responsible for cleaning and clearing rights-of-way along IDOT highways and roads, and patching and repairing roads and bridges as needed.

Applications are available online at www.cms.illinois.gov or at the James R. Thompson Center 100 W. Randolph, 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60601 Call 312-793-3565 for more information.

IDOT: Diversifying the Workforce

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is committed to increasing the diversity of its workforce and is encouraged by recent progress.

To date, minorities make up 14.5 percent (751) of IDOT's workforce, an increase from 12.5 percent (649) in 2008. This success is a direct result of efforts by the Diversity Recruitment and Outreach Office. This small office of four full-time employees dedicates itself to increasing the awareness of careers in transportation among

students of all ages through engineering academies, training programs, workshops, transportation institutes, scholarship programs, and other community outreach initiatives.

In addition, the staff reaches out to minority student groups at universities and colleges both locally and across the country to recruit civil engineer trainees and engineer technicians.

In 2010, of the 405 individuals hired, 25 percent were minorities. In 2011 (through March 31), 45 percent of the individuals

hired were minorities.

IDOT stands committed to its goal to create greater opportunity for qualified minority workers to gain employment within the agency.

IDOT to Attend Job Fair

May 20

Kappa Alpha Psi Job Fair

East St. Louis City Hall Rotunda, 301 River Park Dr. East St. Louis, IL

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Student Participants Needed for Summer Engineering Academy

The Diversity Recruitment and Outreach Office will be collecting applications for the Summer Engineering Academy. The program provides a realistic hands-on experience that encourages teamwork, problem solving and practical application, while also exposing students to exciting and challenging career opportunities in the field of engineering and the transportation industry. To acquire additional information, please email DOT.RECRUITMENT@Illinois.gov.

Current Procurement Opportunities

The following procurement opportunities are open for bid:

- **Electronic Bidding (EBids)** - To perform tasks related to the pre-construction phase of a transportation construction project, an e-Bid system is proposed to manually contribute to many hours of information gathering, calculation, data entry, and proposal preparation. An e-Bid system will automate many of the pre-construction functions, improve productivity and reduce data entry error.
- **Human Resource Information (HRI) DataMart Resources** - The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) seeks a single vendor to provide Information Technology professionals to work on the Human Resource Information (HRI) Datamart project and work with existing full-time staff on the existing data marts/applications and review opportunities for additional data marts that would benefit the Agency.
- **Statewide Parcel Delivery Services** - The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) seeks a contract for parcel delivery and pickup services for identified IDOT facilities as well as nationwide delivery for ground and air shipments.
- **District I Traffic Control Devices** - District I Delivery, Setup and Pickup of Traffic Control Devices.

For more information, potential vendors can visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us.

Training Opportunities

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
5/18/11	Bonding / Financing DBE Supportive Services workshops	D-3 Kankakee Community College 888 River Road, Kankakee	Theo Joyner 312-419-7260
5/19/11	Bonding / Financing DBE Supportive Services workshops	D-1 DBE Resource Center 900 S. Des Plaines, Chicago	Theo Joyner 312-419-7260
5/19/11	E-Verify/Certified Payroll/Delinquent Debt DBE Supportive Services workshops	D-2 EIGERlab 625 Fulton Ave., Rockford	Pete Stresino 630-529-8000
5/26/11	Estimating & Bidding DBE Supportive Services workshops	D-1 DBE Resource Center 900 S. Des Plaines, Chicago	Pete Stresino 630-529-8000
6/22/11	How to do Business with IDOT DBE Supportive Services workshops	River Valley Metro Center 1137 E.5000 N. Road, Bourbonnais	Theo Joyner 312-419-7260
6/23/11	Marketing Your Company DBE Supportive Services workshops	D-1 DBE Resource Center 900 S. Des Plaines, Chicago	Theo Joyner 312-419-7260
6/30/11	Estimating & Bidding, Concrete Work DBE Supportive Services workshops	D-1 DBE Resource Center 900 S. Des Plaines, Chicago	Pete Stresino 630-529-8000

IDOT Officials Shed Light on Rules for Sub-Grantees

On April 27-28, 2011, the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University, sponsored the 22nd Annual Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC) Spring 2011 Conference in Springfield. The conference attendees included more than 200 sub-grantees of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation. During the conference, Karen Ward, Special Assistant Chief Counsel for IDOT, spoke to attendees about Title VI requirements and civil rights compliance issues.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the main legal authority that protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of their race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive

Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance, IDOT is subject to Title VI requirements. Sub-grantees of IDOT are subject to the same requirements. Ward made attendees aware of their responsibilities as sub-grantees of Federal financial assistance from IDOT, and informed sub-grantees that they must notify beneficiaries of protections under Title VI, develop procedures for handling Title VI discrimination complaints, promote public participation, particularly for minority and low-income populations, and develop record-keeping procedures for Title VI complaints. In addition, Ward informed sub-grantees about their obligation to provide language assistance to limited English proficient (LEP) persons to ensure accessibility of their programs and activities. The Illinois Rural Tran-

sit Assistance Center operates under a contract with IDOT and is a unit of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, Macomb.

Notice of June Letting

The Illinois Department of Transportation is preparing for the June letting, which is scheduled for June 17, 2011. With more than \$500 million in road construction projects anticipated for the June letting, the 2011 construction season is expected to be a busy one. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/desenv/delett.html>