



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF MINORITY AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

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Coalition launches statewide Get Certified campaign

January 8th, 2014

The Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises today announced they will be launching a statewide Get Certified campaign intended to help more women- and minority-owned businesses win contracts with state and local governments. The campaign is in partnership with the Office of the Governor, the Washington State Department of Transportation and Sound Transit. The campaign will make over 30 stops throughout the state and hold educational workshops for small diverse businesses on the benefits of certification.

"While business growth begins to climb, it is important to acknowledge that nationally small businesses represent 99.7% of all employers. This is providing socially and economically disadvantaged businesses an opportunity to grow their businesses and create jobs for Washingtonians," said OMWBE Director Alexis Oliver.

The campaign will launch on January 20th and run through January 24th. On January 24th a reception will be held in Tacoma to connect small minority and women-owned businesses with contractors, procurement officers and State officials.

"With our economy recovering, our investments in minority and women-owned and operated firms will help create jobs and build ladders of opportunity for thousands of small business owners," Governor Jay Inslee said. "This is a great opportunity for OMWBE to continue to expand their reach to businesses and communities across the state and help them connect to contracting opportunities," he continued.

"There are small businesses across the state who will benefit from a program like this but just don't know about it yet. Once a business becomes certified they can more easily connect to government contracts and procurement opportunities which can significantly grow their business," Oliver said.

For more information on the Get Certified campaign business owners can visit www.getcertifiednw.com.

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