

The Advocate

Volume 8, Issue 1



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Inside this issue:

The Oregon Way	2
MWESB Growth	2
Legislative Bills	2
Go Oregon Event Photos	3,4
MWESB Services	5
100 Bridges	5
OMWESB Office	6
Upcoming Events	6

Oregon Sunset



Dates of Interest

March	Women's History Month
April	Celebrate Diversity Month
April 22	Earth Day
May 25	Memorial Day

Governor's Office Advocate for Minority, Women & Emerging Small Businesses

Advocate's Message



Lydia Muñiz, Advocate, assists with distributing handouts.

Senate Bill 338 was signed into law by Governor Kulongoski, authorizing sale of bonds to fund projects at public facilities throughout the state.

This \$175 million Go Oregon economic stimulus program will help pay for infrastructure and deferred maintenance of buildings and other facilities owned by state government, local communities, universities and community colleges. The Governor and Legislature recognize that Oregon businesses are hurting. This program is intended to get people to work quickly. Projects are on a fast track. Some are expected to begin work by April 1st.

The Governor's Advocate for Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses coordinated with the Oregon University System (OUS) and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to present information on current Go Oregon projects around the state. More than 1,240 people attended one of the eight sessions presented. Sessions were held in Portland, Salem, Klamath Falls, Roseburg, Pendleton and Bend. Host facilities (Portland Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Oregon Institute of Technology, Rogue Community College, Blue Mountain

Community College, and Central Oregon Community College) were gracious and went the extra mile to help the events run smoothly.

Thanks to the state agencies who sent staff to the events to meet with businesses: DAS, OUS, ODOT, ODFW, DOC, OMWESB, Federal agencies, US Forest Service and SBA, as well as various universities and community colleges.

For information about project lists and important Go Oregon websites, please visit us at: www.oregon.gov/Gov/MWESB/events.shtml



Ross Waggoner, DAS, shares current projects at Portland's Go Oregon session

Federal Economic Stimulus Program



The federal stimulus is known to us as the Oregon Way. The signing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) by President Obama on February 17, positions Oregon for additional projects. The approximately \$224 million that ODOT will receive for major infrastructure projects represents over 3000 jobs created or sustained. Governor Kulongoski said "with unemployment exceeding 10% in Oregon, it is urgent that we utilize every tool available to us to preserve and create jobs, getting paychecks into workers hands as soon as possible." For a complete list of ODOT approved projects visit:

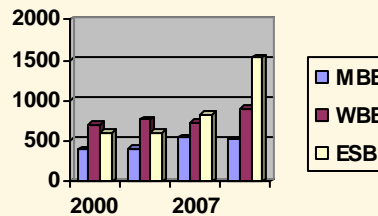
http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/recovery/economic_stimulus.shtml.

MWESB Certified Firm Growth

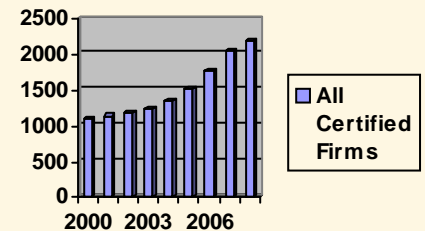
The total number of state certified firms has increased from approximately 1,465 in the year 2000, to 2,044 in 2007 and 2186 in 2008. Slow growth is noted between 2000 and 2004. 2005-2008 showed significant increases in numbers of certified firms. Between 2000 and 2008, certified firm numbers have increased by about 50%. You might wonder why there would be an increase. Historically, when the economy slows business startups increase due to downsizing in the corporate world.

Statistics show a growth in most areas for most years. The fastest growing group has been emerging small businesses, followed by minority owned businesses. Notice, however, a loss of women owned businesses from 2005 to 2007. MBEs also showed a slight loss between 2007 and 2008.

Charted Growth



MWESB Breakdown



Bills Supporting Diversity Introduced in Legislature

Several bills have been introduced in the 2009 Legislature that could affect Oregon's minority and woman-owned businesses. Below is a brief summary of what each bill would do. We will continue to monitor these bills and provide updates to you.

House Bill (HB) 3143 supports contractors who utilize a diverse workforce. In its summary it states that if it becomes law it would require those who bid for a "public improvement contract to demonstrate responsibility by showing that person has record of meeting or exceeding standards for workforce diversity on previous contracts." This would include minorities, women and emerging small businesses.

HB 3142 and Senate Bill (SB) 896 call for the development of a Contractor and Workforce Diversity Pilot Program. This program would be established to "aid in increasing diversity among contractors to which

department awards public improvement contracts and among subcontractors and workers employed in connection with public improvement contracts."

HB 3141 and SB 895 would create a Construction Diversity Oversight Board (CDOB) and establish a Construction Diversity Oversight Fund to support the work of the Board. The CDOB would consist of 15 members from various state, local, profit, non-profit, labor, etc. organizations. The Board would be responsible for many objectives, one of which would be to "recommend goals for representation of women and members of minority groups and utilization of apprentices in the construction industry workforce." They would also "review the extent to which state contracting agencies and contractors have met or implemented or have made progress toward meeting or implementing the recommended goals and publish annually a report that evaluates compliance."



Kathy Woodin of Dale Woodin Concrete

This Board would work to develop strategies to help increase contracts awarded to minorities and women in addition to increasing the "representation of women and members of minority groups and the utilization of apprentices in the construction industry workforce."

If passed and signed into law, all would take effect immediately.

Go Oregon Stimulus Events Photos



Lydia Muñiz, Governor's Advocate MWESB, welcomed guests to Go Oregon Events



Cold weather did not deter 110 people who filled the auditorium at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.



Portland area drew the largest crowd (600 total) who filled Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus's facility



Time for networking.

Attendees meet with agency staff.

"Thank you for your outreach efforts."

-Jayne Clarke, Pioneer Asphalt, Inc.



Fifty business people attended at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.



150 people lined the bleachers at Central Oregon Community College in Bend to hear about state projects .

Go Oregon Stimulus Events Photos



Top left: Vendors sign in for the Go Oregon Stimulus Event in Portland. **Top right:** The house was packed in Portland. **Middle left:** Beth Lopez (Left) and Raleigh Lewis (Right) explain the state's minority-owned, woman-owned and emerging small business certification process. **Middle right:** Kelly Stevens-Malnar (DAS) shows the audience the ins and outs of ORPIN, the Oregon Procurement Information Network. **Bottom Left:** Standing room only at PCC in Portland! **Bottom right:** Bill Brown (ODFW) talks about projects available for the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Governor's Advocate MWESB — Services Offered

Advocacy:

The Advocate is a liaison between government and certified minority, women and emerging small businesses and represents certified firms and other small business owners at legislative hearings, task force meetings, and through the legislative process. The Advocate works to promote communication and to build relationships between government agencies and minority, women and emerging small businesses.



Photo courtesy of Tori Garcia

Facilitation:

The Advocate works with vendors and public purchasing personnel and procurement offices to ensure a fair and open contracting process. Vendors with problems may visit the Advocate for help regarding business matters involving state government contract processes.

Outreach & Business Networking:

The Advocate's Office informs certified minority, women and emerging small businesses about events, training and meetings designed to help them grow their businesses. Communications include emails, faxes, newsletters and flyers sent to business owners to connect them with helpful programs and potential business opportunities including events sponsored through this office.

Consulting and Counseling Services:

The Advocate's Office regularly meets with vendors to consult and offer business counseling services regarding state and local contract opportunities.

Technical Assistance:

The Advocate's Office offers technical support and advice for vendors and government buyers needing assistance with a contract or business question. The Advocate's Office helps buyers find vendors that meet their purchasing needs and helps vendors identify opportunities for doing business with government.

Events:

The Advocate's Office presents educational workshops through the Governor's Marketplace Connection to facilitate business relationships between small business owners and government buyers. These events focus on business clusters and provide training and networking opportunities that improve contracting prospects.

One Hundred Bridges

Last fall, ODOT's OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program marked a milestone as it completed the 100th bridge. As of Sept. 30, 2008, bridge program construction workers—primarily Oregonians employed by Oregon contractors—have taken home more than \$29 million in total wages and benefits. Workers' paychecks have a "multiplier" effect, meaning the dollars make their way through the local economy many times.

View the interactive map:

http://www.obdp.org/program/economic_success/

Visit the OTIA III Web site for more media coverage and information about the bridge program:
http://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/OTIA/bridge_delivery.shtml

The OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program is part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA funds are repairing or replacing hundreds of bridges, paving and maintaining city and county roads, improving and expanding interchanges, adding new capacity to Oregon's highway system and removing freight bottlenecks statewide. Based on 2008 dollars, about 14 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Each year during the remainder of the OTIA program, it is estimated that construction projects will sustain an average of 4,100 family-wage jobs.





Governor's Advocate's Office
Executive Building
155 Cottage St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Reminder!

CERTIFICATION OFFICE HAS MOVED

The Certification Office (Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses) has moved and is now housed in the State Lands Building. The new address and phone numbers for staff are listed below. The office no longer has a Notary available so you are encouraged to notarize all applications and affidavits in advance. The post office address is preferred for added security and more timely delivery.

Office of Minority, Women & Emerging Small Businesses (OMWESB)

PO Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405
Salem, Or 97301-1280

(775 Summer St NE, 2nd Floor)

Main Line (503) 986-0075 — Fax (503) 373-7041

Administrative Support - Barbara (503) 986-0069

Receptionist - Earl (503) 986-0123 OECD

Manager - Raleigh (503) 986-0063

Certification Spec. - Sheila (503) 986-0060

Certification Spec. - Elizabeth (503) 986-0062

Certification Spec. - Susan (503) 986-0068

Upcoming Events

- May 7— OAME's 21st Annual Conference and Trade Show. Oregon Convention Center.**
For Registration, exhibit and luncheon information, and reservations, contact the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) at 503-249-7744, or at www.oame.org
- May 12, 13- Trading at the River sponsored by Oregon Native American Business Network. (ONABEN). Red Lion Hotel on the River at Jantzen Beach. Contact information:**
11825 SW Greenburg Road, Suite B-3 Tigard, OR 97223, (503)968-1500
- May 28— Latino Business Fair sponsored by the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber. Oregon Convention Center.**
If you would like to participate please email Gale Castillo: gcastillo@hmccoregon.com
- May 28— Small Business Administration—Small Business Week Gala.**
Oregon Convention Center, 5-9 p.m. (503)326-2682.