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Advocating, Informing and Promoting Small & Minority Owned Businesses

Registration is open for the OBDC Construction Academy

Registration is open for the Ohio Business Development Center (OBDC) Construction Academy. The first six-week session will begin on Saturday, February 1 at the City of Columbus Planroom, 1393 E. Broad St—Columbus

The course is being offered to twelve contractors who perform in the areas of flooring, electrical, mechanical, painting or masonry.

Participants will learn how to read construction documents, how to estimate and how to prepare a bid package.

Register online at OHBDC.eventbrite.com

OhioMBE Awards Business Profile—Top MBE: Brown Girls Mentoring Program

Mrs. Jamie Blunt is the founder and visionary of Brown Girls Mentoring Program, an organization designed to create a safe place for young girls and women to become better versions of themselves. The Columbus, Ohio native found her calling in helping set the authentic standard for young brown girls. Her pivotal Life Lessons are continuing to help her on her own journey to self actualization and are a standpoint in the structure of Brown Girls Mentoring.

Jamie's own life lessons started as a girl, growing up with the influence of her now-late grandmothers. She learned what it was to be unapologetic about who you are; remembering to keep in prayer and developing a zero tolerance for things and people that do not serve you.



Jamie Blunt

She is naturally driven to serve and is always eager to see people smile. After participating in community events and organizations over the years, Jamie realized her urge to help others see the light in themselves. Dedicating her life to the advancement and well-being of young, brown girls that were just like her, from her neighborhood or the same, became a no-brainer. The

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Media's
responsibility
is to
challenge
government

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Support
Black
Businesses
in 2020



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OhioMBE welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Typed letters of 200 words or less are preferred; all might be edited. Each letter must include name, home address and daytime phone number. Some letter may appear on our website.

The 912 Group is an Ohio certified Minority Owned and EDGE business. The 912 Group is a certified FBE with the City of Columbus.

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Keep up-to-date at
OhioMBE.com

Beatty Minority Banking Bill Pass the House

Legislation will help expand and improve financial products and services for customers and communities of color

The U.S. House of Representatives passed unanimously the *Expanding Opportunity for Minority Depository Institutions Act, H.R. 5315*. Introduced by U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03), *H.R. 5315* would codify the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Financial Agent Mentor-Protégé Program that helps pair minority-owned banks with financial agents to expand business and consumer products. Following passage, Beatty said:

“Minority-owned banks play a vital role in our economy, providing customers the necessary resources to start a business, achieve their dreams of homeownership, and even save for retirement. Yet, too many minority-owned banks are closing up shop. My bill will reverse this troubling trend by providing support and guidance for minority-owned banks so that they can continue to meet the unique needs of their customers, and at the same time create more pathways for minority Americans to open

their very own business, buy a home, plan for the future, and much more.”

According to the 2019 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Report on Minority Depository Institutions, minority-owned banks originate a greater share of mortgages and Small Business Administration (SBA) 7(a) loans to borrowers in low- to moderate-income census tracts than non-minority-owned banks. In addition, they also provide a greater share of reported loans to minority Americans than non-minority-owned financial institutions.

Prior to the vote on the *Minority Depository Institutions Act*, Beatty spoke from the House Floor about the bill’s positive effects on consumers and communities across the country. [An archived recording of Beatty’s full re-](#)



MLK Commission to recognize inspirational Ohioans at Jan. 16 celebration

Governor Mike DeWine joined the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission at the 35th annual Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration to recognize six Ohioans and one organization for their efforts to advance nonviolent social change.

“These Ohioans reflect a life similar to that of Dr. King’s, filled with a passion to create positive changes within their communities,” said DeWine. “Each of these awardees selflessly serve others and continue to make Ohio a great state.”

The 12-member [commission](#) advocates Dr. King’s principles of nonviolent change and the pursuit of racial, social and economic justice, and annually hosts the award ceremony in January leading up to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

“These outstanding Ohioans remind us that Dr. King’s dream of inclusion, social justice and service to the common good remains alive and

is flourishing in communities across the state,” said Will Lucas, chair of the commission. “They are an inspiration to us all to join our neighbors in continuing to spread Dr. King’s message of equality for generations to come.”

Award recipients are :

- Brittinie Jermon of Cleveland – Educational Excellence Award
- Rev. Gerard Mirbel of Painesville – Governor’s Humanitarian Award
- MORTAR, Cincinnati’s Entrepreneurship Hub – Economic Opportunity Award
- Dr. Anahi Ortiz of New Albany – Health Equity and Awareness Award
- Veronica Sims of Akron – Community Building Award
- Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. of Columbus – Social Justice Award
- Billy Joe White of Zanesville – Cultural Awareness Award

The Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services provides administrative support to the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

publisher's note

Celebrating a New Year of Publishing!

By Ronda Watson Barber
Publisher



We are celebrating a new year of publishing! As the publisher, I am excited to continue to advocate, promote and inform the Buckeye state's small business community. Our goal is to help foster a business environment for Black-owned, female and disadvantaged companies to develop, grow and thrive.

A wise man once told me that there needs to be someone who's sole task every day is

to incorporate minority businesses into Ohio's government and corporate business models. OhioMBE will accept the challenge. In 2020, our primary focus will be on asking a few questions, "how does this impact Black-owned business" and "are Black businesses infused in this project."

We believe in the 1st Amendment. We believe that news and information can economically empower our communities. We believe in small businesses and the contributions they make to our society.

We need your support to do what we do. The cost of a cup of coffee with help us to continue our campaign to advocate, inform and promote Ohio's small businesses. Please consider purchasing an ad in our business directory or attend an upcoming OhioMBE Procurement Fair. We offer a \$1.99 monthly membership program. There are a few perks into investing \$24 into our business. Last year, members were invited to attend the 2019 OhioMBE Awards and insert a capability statement in the Capability Book at no charge.

In 2020, we need your support to keep producing quality information. Every reader contribution, whatever the amount, makes a BIG difference. Thanks for the consideration!

Just my thoughts...rwb



A lie cannot live. —
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

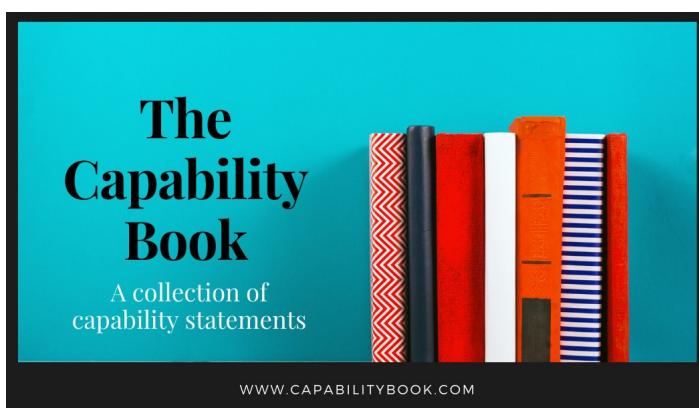
Why you should get your business certified?

There are several reasons why you should get your business certified:

1. Some entities have purchasing goals. Only certified businesses can participate.
2. Certification adds legitimacy to your business. You have gone through a process that has determined that your business is owned and controlled by a minority, woman or disadvantaged business.
3. Certification can afford your loan and bonding opportunities. The State of Ohio has loan and bonding programs specifically for certified minority owned businesses.
4. Certification can be a marketing tool for your business. You can add your certifications to your marketing materials, business cards, website, etc. Many consumers like doing business with a veteran, minority or woman owned businesses.
5. Certification can be used in the private sector. Many companies don't have a certifying program but in an effort to have supplier diversity, will accept the certifications from some governmental agencies.

Attend a class at the City of Columbus Planroom,
operated by OBDC and learn how.

Register at OHBDc.eventbrite.com



The Capability Book is an online directory of small businesses and their capability statements. Looking for a product, service, or company, browse our directory. CapabilityBook.com

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City of Columbus-
Department of Public Utilities
Division of Water
Water Division Administrator



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

This position will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and directing the operations of the City of Columbus, Division of Water (DOW), a division within the Department of Public Utilities. DOW employs over 450 employees and manages various facilities that include two surface water treatment plants, one ground water treatment plant, one upground reservoir and pump station, 14 stand-alone Water Booster Stations, administrative offices and maintenance facilities, three dams, and five collector wells. DOW has approximately 300,000 customers serving 1.26 Million people in Central Ohio. DOW has an annual operating budget averaging approximately \$107 Million a year and manage a six-year Capital Improvement Program totaling \$800 Million. Upcoming projects include implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), completion

See Water on page 6

City of Columbus-
Department of Public Utilities
Director's Office- Human Resources
Human Resources Analyst

This full time Human Resources Analyst will primarily be responsible for assisting with the administration of the Department's Learning Management System (Cornerstone OnDemand) by performing system configurations, assigning and tracking training, creating custom reports, conducting system audits, and creating/aligning learning objectives. Additionally, this position will be responsible for supporting and coordinating various training & development activities within the department; this may include facilitating training workshops, creating e-Learning courses, and conducting training needs assessments. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential, along with excellent time management skills. Candidates who possess experience with Cornerstone OnDemand and/or Articulate Storyline are encouraged to apply.

To be considered for this position, candidates must possess a bachelor's degree and two (2) years of professional human resources experience in a human resources office, company, firm, or department. Substitution(s): A master's degree in a related field may be substituted for one (1) year of the required experience. The salary range for this position is: \$55,037 – \$82, 555 annually.

If you are interested, please submit an application to the Civil Service Commission by applying online at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/columbusoh> by 01/24/2020. You may also apply by emailing your resume to AKSamuel@columbus.gov.

Pre-employment drug screening and BCI& I background check are required if selected.

City of Columbus is an equal opportunity employer.

bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email news@ohiombe.com



Columbus City Schools issues solicitations on a regular basis for goods & services related to food, construction, technology, curriculum, & transportation. Interested vendors should periodically check our website at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Development has contracting opportunities in the below areas. Please reach out for more information and bidding requirements.

- Graffiti Removal and Arborist Services. Contact Eric Voorhees (614-645-7934 or eavorhees@columbus.gov).
- Grass Cutting and Solid Waste Removal. Contact Mike Schwab (614-645-7122 or mfschwab@columbus.gov).
- Demolition and Asbestos Abatement. Contact Mike Farrenkopf (614- 679-5873 or mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov) or Seth Brehm (614-645-5659 or swhbrehm@columbus.gov).
- Property Maintenance and Miscellaneous Services in November 2019. Contact Audrea Hickman (614-645-8907 or aehickman@columbus.gov).
- Construction trades including: General Construction, Home Improvement, Electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing. Contact Tim Tilton (614- 724-3009 or twilton@columbus.gov).
- Lead abatement. Contact Erica Hudson (614- 645-6739 or ejhudson@columbus.gov).

To register for notifications on upcoming bid opportunities, please visit <http://vendors.columbus.gov/sites/public>.

Looking for bid notices?

WE GOT BIDS!



Find us online:
Facebook, Twitter
& LinkedIn

OhioMBE.com/bid-opportunities



LEGAL NOTICE

OPERATION: FIX IT – RESTROOM UPGRADES – WOODCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HILLTONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL, JOHNSON PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL, YORKTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL, INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL

Sealed bids for the above-referenced project will be received by the BOARD OF EDUCATION, City School District of Columbus, Ohio, Office of Capital Improvements, 889 E. 17th Ave, Columbus OH 43211, until Friday, January 31, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. More information can be found on the District's web site at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>. The plans and specifications are on file with Franklin Imaging.



City of Columbus Planroom

1393 E. Broad Street - Suite 104

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OHBDC.org

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Grow your business with
contracts & certifications

Friday, January 31, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Certification overview with
ODOT, Department of
Administrative Services
and City of Columbus

Friday, March 27, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Get on track to
become certified

Friday, February 21, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Start creating your
certification packets

Friday, April 24, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Location: Columbus Urban League - Minority Business
Assistance Center in the HEC/KEWL Academy Room**

780 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43203



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Urban League

Financial Empowerment Services

Ohio Minority Business
Assistance Centers
Columbus

RSVP to: Simone Burley at (614) 525-5121 or sburley@franklincountyengineer.org

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of a water master plan, and evaluation of an additional water treatment plant. The Water Division Administrator will report to the Director of Public Utilities.

To be considered for this position, candidates must possess a bachelor's degree and seven (7) years of managerial experience in a water utility that included policy formulation, budget responsibility, and supervision in at least one (1) of the following areas: Water distribution systems, water supply and treatment, professional engineering, or another closely related area. Substitution (s): A master's degree may be substituted for one (1) year of the required experience. The salary range for this position is: \$116,584 – \$194,293 annually.

If you are interested, please submit an application to the Civil Service Commission by applying online at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/columbusoh> by 02/07/2020. You may also apply by emailing your resume and cover letter to AKSamuel@columbus.gov.

Pre-employment drug screening and BCI&I background check are required if selected.

City of Columbus is an equal opportunity employer.

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ability to separate who she was from what people expected her to be also holds much weight in her success. It is one of the key factors she teaches her Brown Girls, "I started to be okay with who God created me to be. I want girls and women to know it's okay to be unique and be different... to know they were born to be different. They don't have to fit in." Fitting into molds and subscribing to what society thinks you should be, how you should look, feel, etc. have all become magnified in our fast paced, media-driven society.

The Brown Girls Mentoring Program aims to be a catalyst for the changes needed in our community - Leaving a legacy to give girls the tools to continue to pay it forward.

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Injustice anywhere is a threat to

justice everywhere —

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

#bidnotices

Ohio Diversity Network

Get a weekly email from OhioDiversityNetwork.com notifying you of upcoming events. Sign up online!

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 10:00am

ODOT- Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussion (Marietta)

Marietta

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 8:30am

SBA- Small Business Invite, for Opportunity & Entrepreneurship Summit

Columbus

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 5:30pm

SBDC- Tax Reform and Small Business

Columbus

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:00pm

SBDC- Ohio Small Business Tax Workshop

Columbus

Friday, January 24, 2020 at 10:00am

ODOT- Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussions (Garfield Heights)

Garfield Heights, OH 44125

Monday, January 27, 2020 at 10:00am

ODOT- Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussion (Ashland)

Ashland

Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 10:00am

ODOT- 2020 DBE Certification Workshop-Dayton

Moraine

Friday, January 31, 2020 at 9:00am

Franklin County-Certification Workshops-Grow Your Business

Columbus

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 10:30am

Certification Saturday at the City of Columbus Planroom

Columbus

Monday, February 3, 2020 at 10:00am

ODOT- Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussion (Chillicothe)

Chillicothe

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 2pm

How to Write a Great Capability Statement (webinar)

Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 12:30pm

COMTO- Columbus Striking Out College Debt Bowl-A-Thon

Pickerington



Hosting a business event?

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post it on

OhioDiversityNetwork.com

Email: news@ohiombe.com
for login information

*OhioDiversityNetwork.com is
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AND INCLUSION

