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Advocating, Informing and Promoting Small & Minority Owned Businesses since 2009

Leader Sykes to speak at the 2020 OhioMBE Awards



Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes

Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia to speak at the 2020 OhioMBE Virtual Awards. Leader Sykes will also be honored as the Legislator of the Year.

Emilia Strong Sykes was first elected to represent her hometown in 2014. She currently represents Ohio's 34th House district and serves as Minority Leader in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Sykes attended Kent State University. She later attended the University of Florida, where she earned a law degree and a masters of public health.

In office, Leader Sykes has pushed an aggressive job creation plan, fighting to keep local jobs for local workers and expand opportunities for middle and working-class families in Akron. Leader Sykes understands the importance of quality education and job training for people to get ahead.

Leader Sykes has worked with colleagues to improve public health, increase access to care, and combat Ohio's high infant mortality rate. Her passion for social justice extends to issues such as voter rights, criminal justice reform, a more efficient social safety net for struggling Ohioans, and an end to domestic violence. Sykes' work on domestic violence issues has earned bipartisan praise and resulted in her legislation to protect people in dating relationships, House Bill 1, becoming law.

Recently, she and her caucus unveiled the Ohio Promise, a legislative framework to strengthen Ohio and restore its promise of better lives and brighter futures for all, and an economy that works for everyone.

Sykes previously served in the Democratic Leadership before being named Minority Leader in January 2019.

Emily's List named Leader Sykes its 2020 Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award winner. Emily's List is the nation's largest resource for women in politics.

The sixth annual OhioMBE Awards will be held on Oct. 28. The OhioMBE Awards recognizes Ohio's Top MBE, F/WBE, Family, Veteran businesses and their advocates. More information is online at OhioMBEAwards.com



Media's responsibility is to challenge government

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OhioMBE welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Typed letters of 350 words or less are preferred. Each letter must include name, home address and daytime phone number. Some letters may appear on our website.

State updates rules to MBE and EDGE programs, sets rules for women-owned business program

Updated rules enhance programs, improve accountability

COLUMBUS – Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Director Matt Damschroder announced the adoption of updated rules that strengthen the State’s Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Encouraging Diversity, Growth, and Equity (EDGE) programs as well as establishes rules for the new Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE) certification program. Damschroder also revealed the launch of a new tips hotline to report possible violations of the programs.

“The state of Ohio is committed to supporting and partnering with diverse businesses,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “These rule changes will help small minority and disadvantaged businesses grow while deterring those who have used the system inappropriately.”

The rules, which passed the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) today, were developed after input from a working group of minority and economically disadvantaged business owners who met regularly last fall to advise on the challenges faced by these businesses. They also offered their ideas for improving the integrity of the State’s minority and economically disadvantaged business certification programs.

A common concern identified by the workgroup dealt with “front and pass-through” companies, businesses acting as a middleman, often with affiliated, non-minority firms disproportionately benefitting from State MBE set-

aside contracts. To prevent this, the new rules add a commercially useful function requirement for MBE certification. The requirement, already in place for the EDGE program, requires certified businesses to demonstrate that they are actively performing, paying, managing, and supervising the work involved in the performance of a contract, among other responsibilities typical of the role of an active owner. More stringent and frequent financial documentation requirements in the rules will also aid these efforts. Problems associated with “front and pass-through” companies have been identified in past administrations by the Ohio Inspector General.

“Nothing is more frustrating to companies playing by the rules than seeing a front-company obtaining State work through deception,” said Damschroder. “These rules will help ensure State-certified businesses are who they say they are.”

Also adopted were rules for implementation of the new WBE certification program as created by the legislature and codified in Ohio Revised Code 123.154. This certification validates ownership status that women-owned businesses may use as credentials for opportunities in Ohio and other states. DAS will be seeking to establish reciprocal recognition agreements between Ohio and other states that maintain a similar women-owned business certification.

Other rule changes help minority businesses use State certification programs to develop and grow their business. The current 10-year cap for EDGE certification was removed and size requirements based on U.S. Small Business Administration guidelines are being implemented. Another change allows more non-minority individuals to sit on a minority-owned

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Ohio General Election Information

ELECTION DAY—Nov. 3, 2020

In-Person Absentee Voting:
Oct 6, 2020 - Nov 2, 2020

Voter Registration Deadline:
Mon Oct 5, 2020

Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot:

Received by Sat Oct 31, 2020
12:00PM EDT

Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot:

In-Person, Received by Tue Nov 3, 2020 7:30PM EST

publisher's note

Will the state's new WBE program impact Black women?

By Ronda Watson Barber
OhioMBE Publisher



The State of Ohio recently made changes to the MBE and EDGE certifications programs. Rules for women's business certification were also established. How will these changes and an additional certification affect Black-owned businesses? What impact will the WBE program have on businesses owned by Black women? I have concerns regarding the establishment of a women's certification program. Is it necessary? What

women is the program targeted to? While white women complain that they suffer discrimination in the business world, The 2019 State of Women-Owned Business Report commissioned by American Express says different. While Black women-owned businesses represent the highest growth of any group between 2014 and 2019. The average earned revenue for Black women-owned businesses is \$24,000 per company versus \$142,900 for all women-owned businesses.

The wealth gap between Black women and white women is staggering, and white women organizations are lobbying and begging for more. Are these organizations concerned with the income disparities between Black and white women business owners? Are they actively working to compact the racism Black women face in the business world or are they just piggybacking on the suffering and struggles of Black folks AGAIN! White women are still white and are the beneficiaries of that privilege.

I posed a series of questions to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Communication department regarding the WBE program. Many thanks to Mellisa Vince for the responses.

1. **Will the Women's Certification program have goals?**As the WBE program is currently written into Ohio Revised Code, it does not have a procurement target – be that a set-aside (i.e., MBE), goal (i.e., EDGE), or preference (i.e., VBE
2. **What state entities is the WBE certification good with?** Although there is not a designated procurement target for state agencies, boards, or commissions, that does not preclude WBE-certified businesses from promoting the certification to all state agencies. A list of appli-

Ohio MLK Commission seeks award nominations

The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission is now accepting nominations for awards honoring Ohioans who carry on the legacy of the celebrated civil rights leader.

The Commission, which operates with administrative support from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Equal Opportunity Division, will announce award winners at the annual Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration. The virtual event will be held in January.

"Dr. King had a profound impact on our country, enlightening many to injustices and ushering in an era of progress toward equity," said DAS Director Matt Damschroder. "We've seen tremendous advancements since the death of Dr. King, but there's work to be done and these awards recognize the many inspiring Ohioans who continue to carry on his legacy today to see his dream fulfilled."

The Commission met yesterday and set a due date of Oct. 30 for nominations for each of the eight awards that can be submitted electronically at das.ohio.gov/mlk. There is no limit on the number of nominations one can submit.

Awards will be made in the following categories: Governor's Humanitarian Award; Community Building Award; Cultural Awareness Award; Economic Opportunity Award; Educational Excellence Award; Heath Equity and Awareness Award; Social Justice Award; and Youth: Capturing the Vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.

For more information contact the DAS Equal Opportunity Division at 614-466-8380 or mlk@das.ohio.gov.

cable points of contact are listed as part of the Certified Business Toolkit on the DAS Equal Opportunity Division's website.

3. **Will non-Ohio women have access to Ohio contracts under this program?** A WBE certification serves as an indicator to any state or local agency looking to increase diversity in their supplier base. And, as we work to develop reciprocity, it gives Ohio's women-owned business more opportunities in other jurisdictions to compete for WBE-type set-asides.

Ohio needs to establish contracting and certification programs where businesses who are truly deserving of assistance to grow and develop businesses.

Just my thoughts...rwb

To the litigious: The First Amendment protects several basic freedoms in the United States including freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government. It was part of the Bill of Rights that was added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. The U.S. Constitution applies to Black Americans as well. The views expressed in OhioMBE and the media outlets of The 912 Group are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views/opinions of The 912 Group, the editor, publisher, our staff, families, or our advertisers.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THROWN A LIFELINE DURING THE PANDEMIC

The Franklin County Commissioners recently highlighted a new Small Business Response and Recovery grant program to help local entrepreneurs weather the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grants total more than \$1 million, and more are expected to be issued in the weeks and months ahead as the county continues to process applications. The loans were awarded to small businesses like salons and barber shops, childcare centers, building contractors, coffee shops, cleaning services and more.

“Our character is being tested in how we respond to this pandemic, and Franklin County is working to help residents through this difficult time. That is why we stress wearing masks to protect our neighbors and have created several different grant and loan programs for businesses. The more we help one another, the stronger we all become,” said John O’Grady, president of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

In addition to the Response and Recovery grants, the county provided \$500,000 for revolving loans, which are still available today through the [Economic Community Development Institute](#).

The county’s funding is also in addition to \$6.75 million in Response and Recovery Grants provided by the City of Columbus. In all, more than 800 businesses have been given a total of 937 grants by the two governments.

These county and city efforts also inspired corporate giving, including JP Morgan Chase which provided \$250,000 in grant matching funds.

The county and city utilized CARES Act dollars for these grants, which were provided by the federal government to help cities and counties weather the pandemic.

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company’s board. This action was requested by the workgroup members, who felt it gave them greater flexibility in creating a board that would help ensure their success.

Following are highlights of the new rules, which will go into effect Oct. 9, 2020.

Responding to the needs of participating businesses:


- Eliminate the current 10-year EDGE program participation limit.
- Ensure that only small businesses participate in EDGE by adopting the SBA 8(A) size standard caps.
- Add ability for the DAS Equal Opportunity Division to identify pre-verified third-party certifiers of comparable programs in order to expedite some MBE and WBE certification applications when the business already holds one of these verified certifications, as with current EDGE program expedited certifications.
- Eliminate the restriction that the majority of members/officers be a minority individual for MBE or a socially- and economically-disadvantaged individual for EDGE, giving MBE and EDGE companies a greater opportunity to engage any successful business owner as board of directors/executive officers.

Enhancing program oversight and avoiding pass-through and front companies:

- All certified business owners will be required to meet the Commercially Useful Function standard, like the existing EDGE rule.
- Certification will be revoked for any violations of program compliance, like the existing EDGE rule.
- MBE-certified companies will now be limited to bidding only on set-aside procurement opportunities that match the company’s appropriate industry codes (international designations for products and services) as approved by the DAS Equal Opportunity Division. This helps ensure they are participating in contracts within their area of

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 ***I’d rather go down in history as one lone Negro who dared to tell the government that it had done a dastardly thing than to save my skin by taking back what I said. - Ida B. Wells***



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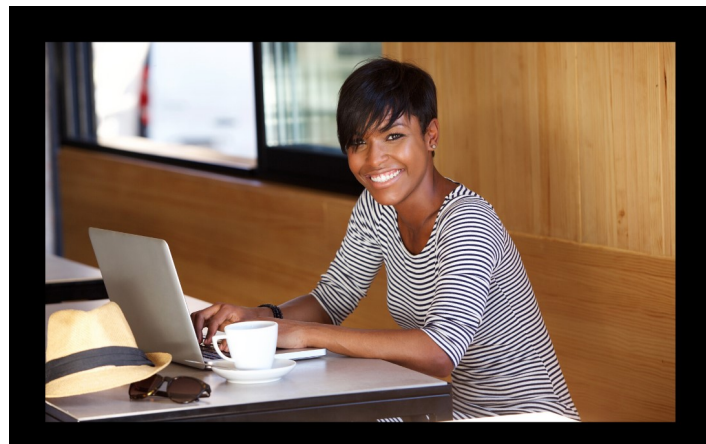
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- [Roof Replacement and related work at Martin P. Lauer Apartments](#) – 10/7
- [Roof Replacement and related work at Van Buren Homes](#) – 10/8
- [As-Needed Elevator Consulting Services](#) – 10/21
- [Moisture Mitigation at various locations](#) – 10/22

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- [Fire Restoration at Sawyer Manor](#) – 10/23
- [East Campus Renovations](#) – 11/10

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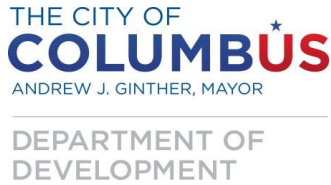
#bidnotices

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 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>.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority is requesting proposals for As-Needed Elevator Consulting Services at Various AMHA Locations within Summit County, Ohio.

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the aforementioned work may obtain the instructions/information package by contacting SE Blueprint, 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330) 376-1689 akron@seblueprint.com

Proposals, to be considered, must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the RFP and received by AMHA no later than 4:00 p.m. (local time) on Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Brian M. Gage
Executive Director



Legal Notice: IFB 2020-012

COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

Fire Restoration @ Sawyer Manor
(901 & 899 Eton Grove Drive)

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking Invitation for Bid(IFB) for the procurement of Fire Restoration @ Sawyer Manor. The response deadline/Bid Opening Friday October 23, 2020 at 11:00AM. A pre-bid conference/walk through is scheduled for 11:00 AM Wednesday October 14, 2020 at 901 & 899 Eton Grove Drive, Columbus Ohio 43203. Public Bid Opening will be held on Zoom. The Zoom Meeting ID may be obtained by visiting our website, www.cmhanet.com or by contacting the Purchasing Department of the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority at 880 E. 11th Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43211 or by calling 614-421-4434, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM, Monday – Friday.



There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter. It all

matters. ~ President Barack Obama

bid opportunities

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



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 until **2:00 p.m.** local time on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

MOISTURE MITIGATION AND RELATED WORK at MAPLEWOOD VILLA APARTMENTS 4175 AMERICANA DRIVE, CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO 44224

Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, Inc. located at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311 (330) 376-1689. Please email (akron@seblueprint.com) or call with quantity requests and notice will be provided when documents are available for pick-up.

An email link for the above mentioned specifications is available at the Subcontractors Association NEO, 637 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; Akron Urban League, Minority Business Assistance Center, 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; the Builders Exchange of Canton, 5080 Aultman Rd., North Canton, Ohio; Builders Exchange of Cleveland, 9555 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio; and the Ohio Construction News, 7261 Engle Road, Suite 304, Cleveland, Ohio. A list of plan holders can be obtained from SE Blueprint's website @ www.seblueprint.com

See full bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/15654>

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expertise. DAS has already been working with certified companies to ensure they have identified and have been approved within their proper industry codes.

- Companies will be required to submit additional financial, business, and net worth documents at the time of recertification to help verify continued program compliance.
- In addition to recertification requirements, certified companies will need to re-apply with an application and all required supporting documentation, as well as an interview every cumulative six years to demonstrate continued program compliance and eligibility.

DAS is also rescinding inactive administrative rules associat-



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Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

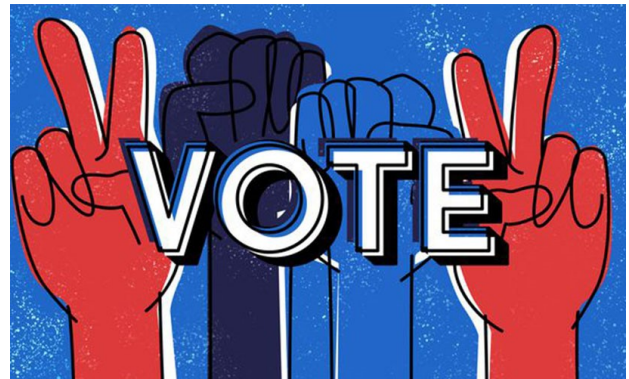
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Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

- [Fire Restoration at Sawyer Manor](#) – 10/23

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

- [Franklin County Corrections Center Continuation Phase 2A](#) - 10/2



ed with the Minority Set Aside Review Board which was repealed in 2004 in HB 216 of the 125th Ohio General Assembly.

In addition to the new rules, DAS' Equal Opportunity Division created a hotline to report possible fraud or abuse in the MBE, EDGE, WBE, and Veteran-friendly Business Enterprise programs.

Tips about alleged violations may be reported to the toll-free hotline by calling 1-888-327-8477 (DAS-TIPS). Callers have the option to remain anonymous. Businesses that violate certification laws or rules risk decertification and the loss of business opportunities.

36TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.
VIRTUAL EVENT
THEME: "NOW IS THE TIME"

TICKETS ON SALE NOVEMBER 1, 2020
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
KARINE JEAN-PIERRE

"We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. **Now is the time** to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. **Now is the time** to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. **Now is the time** to make justice a reality for all of God's children."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Excerpt from I Have a Dream at the Washington D.C. Civil Rights March 1963



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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 you 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 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 and learn how to get your business certified. Visit OHBDC.eventbrite.com for the upcoming class schedule.

Let's get back to business.



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Questions to ask those seeking elected office

1. What have you done for Black-owned & minority businesses during your career?
2. What do you promise to do for Black-owned & minority businesses if elected?
3. What Black-owned & minority business do you regularly purchase products or services from?
4. Why should Black-owned & minority business owners vote for you?
5. How important is Black-owned & minority business development to the overall Ohio economy?
6. Are minority business set-asides and goals in city/county/state government still important and why?
7. What can the city/county/state do to improve its purchasing with minority businesses?
8. What should minority owned businesses do to get city/county/state contracts?
9. Is there anything else, aside from contracting that the city/county/state can do to assist MBE's?
10. Who are the major contributors to your campaign?

Support Black Businesses

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Mary L. Nutter
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Village Center Way CMB-246

New Albany, Ohio 43054-8331

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Ohio Diversity Network

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 8:30am

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Govern Conference**

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 1:00pm

2020 OhioMBE Virtual Awards



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- ♥ innovation
- ♥ impact

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For more information, and to register, click below.

October 6-8, 2020

www.columbus.gov/odi/govern/



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#BLACKLIVESMATTER

Breonna Taylor

2020 MBE Ohio *Virtual* Awards

Congratulations to the 2020 Top MBE, FBE, Family and Veteran Business Nominees (to date)

Top MBE	Samara Tillman	Dance Elite Columbus
Top MBE	Deonna Barnett	Aventi Enterprises
Top MBE Top FBE	Yolonda Shelton	Allegiance Insurance Group LLC
Top FBE	Heena Tathore	TrueChoicePack
Top MBE	Heena Rathore	TrueChoicePack
Top FBE	Jessica East	Noir Marketing and PR
Top MBE	Angel Soro	A-men Pest Control
Top FBE	Dannette Render	DAR Public Relations, Inc.
Top Veteran Business	Serbennia Davis	SerbSewn Fashions
Top MBE	Noni Banks	The Diva Movement
Top FBE	sheena fain	Guided Growth Consulting LLC
Top MBE	Bill Balderaz	Futurety
Top MBE Top Family Business	Brenda Spencer	Spencer 4Higher Media, LLC