



# OHIO MBE

## SUPPLIER DIVERSITY BREAKFAST



**MBE**hio

  
National  
Church  
Residences

Networking, Collaborations & Insightful Discussions



June 29  
7:30 am



# Meeting Agenda

7:30 AM

Networking/Breakfast

08:00 AM

Welcomes

8:15 AM

Panel Discussion

9:00 AM

Conclusion

# Speakers

**Damita R. Brown** is the chief diversity officer with National Church Residences. In addition to focusing on building a thriving, diverse, and inclusive culture, she will be involved in the organization's procurement, recruitment, and promotion practices and its servant leadership training. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, National Church Residences provides an array of healthcare services and housing options for seniors across the country. Ms. Brown comes to the NCR from the city of Columbus, where she served in three positions since 2016. Over the last three years, Brown was the leader and chief architect of the city's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategy. She was responsible for setting priorities across city government operations, instituting the city's first employee engagement survey and citywide racial equity and implicit bias training, and developing DEI performance measures and comprehensive plans to achieve greater accountability and transparency. Before joining the city, Brown advanced diversity and inclusion initiatives at Huntington National Bank and the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.



**Marleise Ryan** is the new Economic Inclusion Manager, at Gilbane Building Company, responsible for the planning, execution, and leadership of economic inclusion initiatives across the Columbus and Pittsburgh Business Unit. She will develop strategies and initiatives that support meeting and exceeding supplier diversity objectives and enhance Gilbane's public image and market position in the division related to the workforce and community.

Before joining the Gilbane family, Marleise was the Economic Equity Administrator with Franklin County, Board of Commissioners, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion for five years. She administered the small emerging business enterprise program, making recommendations through the County Purchasing to increase small, minority, women, local, disadvantaged, and veteran business enterprises' participation in County contracts. In addition, Marleise spent three years with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) as the Business Development Specialist overseeing the certification, outreach, and small business program. She has experience in the construction industry of roads and bridges while working at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

She was awarded the Frank W. Watson Advocacy Award in 2019 by OhioMBE for her work in supplier diversity of minority businesses. Marleise holds a BA in Business Management from Ohio Dominican University and a Master Compliance Administrator (MCA) certificate from Morgan State University.

**DaWanna Allen** has over 25 years of public service as a business professional implementing strategies, programs and diversity initiatives. In her current capacity with the City of Columbus Mayor's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, she is a Business Diversity Coordinator responsible for executing Supplier Diversity objectives and best practices to reduce barriers for underrepresented business communities.

Ms. Allen serves as an industry expert to internal and external stakeholders, identifying and evaluating opportunities for certifiable firms to do business with the City of Columbus. She leads outreach and engagement, expanding awareness of the benefits of business certification, driving diversity efforts through strategic alliances and broad community engagement to build strong internal and external relationships.

In addition to government, civic, corporate and business relations, DaWanna's experiences include federal financial reporting, contract compliance, program / project and grant management. She has performed as a business and systems analyst, responsible for the research, development, implementation and training on programs, policies and systems. Ms. Allen holds certifications in the FAA DBE/ACDBE Certification Program, Prevailing Wage Law, Grant Writing, and Building Templates & Reports. She is also an independent licensed Life and Health Insurance Agent.



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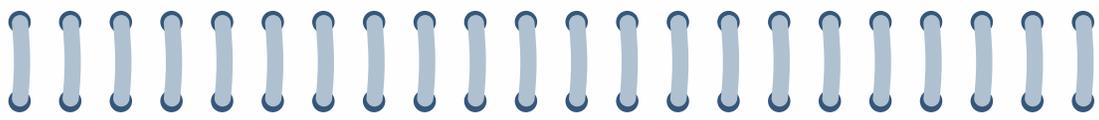
**Terri L. Wise** is the Outreach Coordinator for Columbus City Schools. Ms. Wise's responsibility is to ensure that Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprises (LEDEs) have fair and equitable access to contracting and procurement opportunities within the district.

Ms. Wise reviews bid opportunities and solicitations to ensure that LEDE vendors are well-represented through prime contracting or subcontracting. Ms. Wise's role includes recruitment of LEDE Vendors, notifying vendors of bid opportunities, assisting prime contractors to ensure that they are making Good Faith Efforts towards achieving the District's participation goal of 20%, participating on selection committee(s), and working with various departments and divisions within the School District to assure that bid packages are properly being structured to provide maximum inclusion and participation by the small business community.

Throughout her career in Small Business Development, Ms. Wise has served on a variety of committees that promote inclusiveness and Minority/Small Business Development, including the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Minority Business Roundtable, Small Business Loan Review Committee for the Columbus Capital Development Corporation., The Statewide MBE/DBE Taskforce, the Ohio DBE Consortium, The Enterprise Advocacy Group, the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, the Certification Committee for the South Central Ohio Minority Business Council, and the MBE Collaborative, Diversity Bridge, and the Minority Enterprise Development (MedWeek) Planning Committee.

Before joining Columbus City Schools in this capacity, Ms. Wise served as the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supervisor for John Glenn International Airport. She is a Certified Contract Compliance Administrator from Morgan State University and a Graduate of Bowling Green State University.

Ms. Wise received the 2022 Frank W. Watson Advocacy Award from OhioMBE and the Publisher's Award in 2015.



# What is Supplier Diversity

- What is Supplier Diversity
  - An approach that guarantees a varied supplier base in procuring goods and services.
- Why is Supplier Diversity Important
  - Empowers diverse businesses and their communities
  - Increases tax base
- Advantages to Businesses Seeking Diverse Suppliers
  - Good for Business. Businesses that set aside 20% and up of their expenditure for diverse suppliers report that 10-15% of their yearly sales come from these programs. In The Meantime, businesses that distribute less than 20% of their spending to diverse companies attribute less than 5% of their trades to their supplier diversity program.
- Why Companies Should Invest in Supplier Diversity Programs
  - Good For Business
  - Shows Corporate Morals
  - Great for Innovation
    - New ideas at the table
  - Increases Business Profile -
    - Puts the business in a positive light



# Upcoming Sessions

July— How to Brand Your Program Internally/Externally

August— Effective Outreach & Good Faith Efforts

Sept— Best practices in reporting/tracking

- Attendance at the mini-conferences is included in all OhioMBE Awards sponsorship packages.
- A mini-conference package costs \$299 per person without purchasing an OhioMBE Awards or Mini-conference sponsorship.
- Mini-conference sponsorship: \$2500 per event.
- Register for the July, August, and September sessions at <https://buytickets.at/the912group>
- All participants will receive an OhioMBE Supplier Diversity Directory, lunch, and admission to the sessions.



# Notes

# Thanks



National  
Church  
Residences



All Things Ty  
Oohs and Ahs



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