



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE
POLICY AND PROGRAMS

To: South Carolina's Small Business Owners

It's that time of year again! The Governor's Office of Small & Minority Business Assistance's (OSMBA) Business Forum and Trade Fair will be held at the Columbia Conference Center in Columbia on March 24, 2010. Our co-hosts for the event are the Budget & Control Board's State Procurement Services Division and the Procurement Procedures Committee.

Our corporate sponsors include BMW Manufacturing Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions LLC., Lockheed Martin, and the South Carolina Education Lottery.

We are excited to bring to you the largest event of its kind in South Carolina for small, minority and women-owned businesses. Our Business Forum and Trade Fair provides an opportunity for the state's small, minority and women business owners to network with procurement officials representing state, local, federal, and corporate organizations. You will obtain information on how to conduct business with those organizations, receive pertinent business training and present your business' goods and services to the procurement officials during the trade fair. Procurement officials have an opportunity to meet new potential suppliers and re-establish relationships with previous suppliers.

Workshops will be presented by the State's Materials Management Office (How to do Business with State Agencies), the State's Information & Technology Management Office (Understanding IT Procurement), and the US Small Business Administration (Business Resources for Small Businesses). SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives) and USC's School of Library and Information Science will provide, by appointment, free, confidential business counseling. We invite small business owners to register to attend, either as an exhibitor or non-exhibitor. Exhibit spaces will be available for businesses to display their goods and services to Local, State, Federal, and major corporations. Exhibit spaces will be available on a first come, first serve basis. A six-foot table, two chairs, and admission for two will be provided for each exhibiting business to display their goods and services.

Mark your calendars now for this important event and submit your registration early, space is limited. The registration deadline is **March 9, 2010**. Don't forget to bring plenty of business cards and any pertinent information about your business. We look forward to meeting you at this year's Business Forum & Trade Fair!

Margaret Woodson
OSMBA Director

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