



Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Building Pathways to Diverse Partnerships

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Overview



- 1) BEP Act Overview and Key Requirements
- 2) University Goals in Support of BEP
- 3) University BEP Achievements
- 4) Strategies and Initiatives

Program Description



- **Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575)**

- To support and provide opportunities to businesses that have been historically underrepresented in the procurement process.
- Effective January 1, 2022, aspirational goal increased to 30% from 20% for state agencies and universities.
 - Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
 - Female Caucasian Enterprise (FCE) - formerly Women Business Enterprise (WBE)
 - Female Minority Enterprise (FME) – formerly Women Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE)
 - Persons with Disabilities Business Enterprise (PBE)
- Vendor compliance with BEP Act
 - Self performance as a BEP certified vendor
 - BEP certified subcontractor
 - Justified and documented waiver

University Goal Alignment

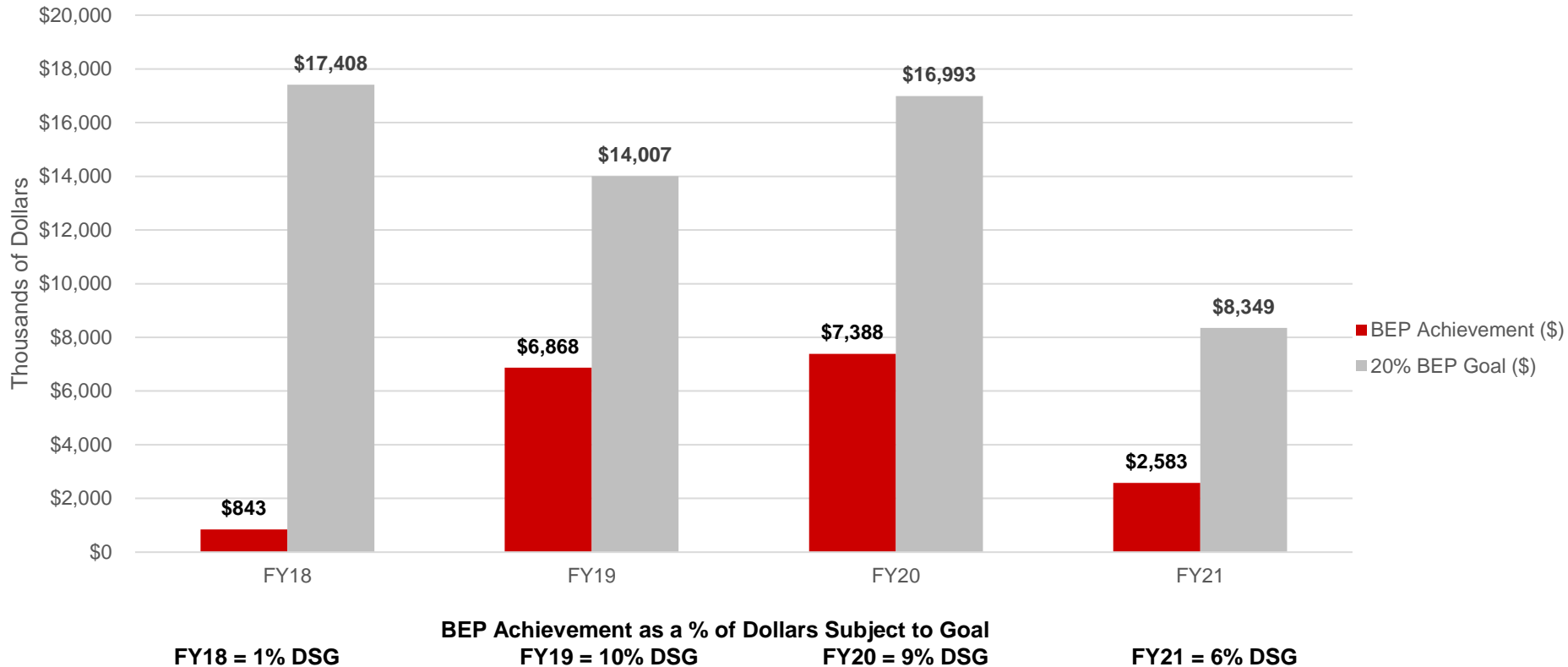


- Aligned goals of the state of Illinois and Northern Illinois University
 - To promote and encourage the continuing economic development of businesses owned by minorities, women, persons with disabilities and veterans.
 - Advanced through the [Illinois Business Enterprise Program \(BEP\)](#). NIU encourages vendor diversity and participation of BEP vendors as both prime and subcontractors.
- University specific goals with the strategic intent to increase NIU's progress toward increasing vendor diversity
 - Develop and implement BEP achievement targets for purchased goods and services by categories (e.g., professional services, construction, commodities, etc.)
 - Increase awareness and engagement of NIU business staff to increase BEP participation by designing and delivering training materials, templates and management reporting.
 - Continue to advocate for enhancements and efficiencies from the state, including those that streamline the registration process for eligible vendors.

BEP Achievement



NIU BEP Performance FY2018 - FY2021



University BEP Strategies



Internal Strategies

- Targeted purchase categories
- Training and awareness
- Competition policy
- Procurements >\$100K
- Planned virtual mini sessions

Vendor Engagement

- Vendor training
- Vendor outreach
- Vendor certification
- NIU-led shared resources groups
 - IPHEC
 - ITHAE IT Team

Administrative Efficiency

- Reduce administrative burden
- Technology enhancement

Legislative Advocacy

- Spring 22 Omnibus Procurement Reform Bill
- Taskforce created by HB 2770.
- Statewide economic development initiatives
- Partnering with our sister universities

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Conclusion



- On track to exceed FY21 results
- Optimistic about future plans
- Strong commitment



Questions?