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

BEP Achievement as a % of Dollars Subject to Goal

FY18 = 1% DSG
FY19 = 10% DSG
FY20 = 9% DSG
FY21 = 6% DSG

FY18: $843
FY19: $6,868
FY20: $7,388
FY21: $2,583

Thousands of Dollars

BEP Achievement ($)
20% BEP Goal ($)
## University BEP Strategies

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<td>• Vendor training</td>
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<td>• Competition policy</td>
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<td>• Statewide economic development initiatives</td>
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<td>• Procurements &gt;$100K</td>
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Legislative Advocacy

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

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