

Supplier Diversity Program

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) recognizes the value of a diverse supplier base and the positive impact it has on the business community and population at large. Accordingly, RIT has developed a Supplier Diversity Program designed to creatively seek new supplier sources to fulfill business opportunities at RIT and ensure that minority, women, and small business owned firms (see definitions below) have a genuine and equal opportunity to compete.

Minority Business Enterprise

A Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) is a for-profit enterprise, regardless of size, physically located in the United States, which is owned, operated and controlled by minority group members. Minority group members are U.S. citizens who are African-American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asia-Pacific American and Asian-Indian American. Ownership by a minority group or individual means that the business is at least 51% owned by such group or individual or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals.

Woman Business Enterprise

A Woman Business Enterprise (WBE) is a for-profit business that is at least 51% owned and operated by a female individual(s) with U.S. citizenship

Small Business Enterprise

A Small Business Enterprise (SB) is a business that meets the small ownership criteria and Business Size Standard for their industry, as defined by the Small Business Administration (generally under 100 employees). Refer to the Federal Acquisition Regulation Part 19.102 for specific details on number of employees and annual sales required to qualify as a Small Business (<https://www.acquisition.gov/far/90-37/html/19.html>).

The RIT Procurement Services Office (PSO) will execute our commitment to supporting a diverse supplier base in the following ways:

1. Act as a link between MBE's, WBE's, and SB's and the university

Suppliers are encouraged to contact the PSO to discuss business opportunities with the university. Contact Tina Karol, Director of Commodity Management, at 585-475-2107 or via email at trkpur@rit.edu. Tina will connect you with the buyer responsible for the commodity you sell.

2. Participate in external activities geared toward identifying M/WBEs

RIT is an active member of the Upstate New York Regional Minority Purchasing Council (UNYRMPCI) – The mission of the UNYRMPCI is to encourage and facilitate procurement and business opportunities between Corporations and MBEs in order to fulfill their respective/mutual business objectives. The Council promotes education and growth of Minority Business Enterprises, thereby enhancing the economic viability of our communities. UNYRMPCI is one of the 39 regional councils of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). UNYRMPCI services Upstate New York. For additional information, visit their web site at www.unyrmpci.org.

PSO will also engage in other community activities and events that promote M/WBE enterprises.

3. Advocate to include for MBEs, WBEs, and SBs in the university's procurement processes

PSO will work with minority, women, and small business owned firms to raise the awareness of these companies to the RIT community, encourage them to respond to bids and provide opportunities to showcase their products or services.

4. Develop and maintain a supplier base which is representative of the diverse community served by the university

PSO will increase opportunities to engage minority, women, and small business owned firms wherever it makes good business sense by:

- Maintaining up-to-date supplier lists
- Categorizing businesses by their size and classification
- Reaching out to local universities and partners to identify new suppliers
- Tracking progress against annual goals for MBE, WBE and SB spend and activity measures