

Supplier Diversity Program

The Rochester Institute of Technology recognizes the value of a diverse supplier base and its impact on the business community and population at large. In recognition of this fact, RIT has developed a Supplier Diversity Program to ensure that it continues to creatively seek new supplier sources to fulfill the business opportunities at RIT and that minority, women, and small business owned firms have a genuine and equal opportunity to compete.

A Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) is defined as 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 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.

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

A Small Business 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) See Federal Acquisition Regulation part 19.102 for specific details on number of employees and annual sales to qualify as a Small Business.

The RIT Supplier Diversity Program will:

- Provide a link between MBE's, WBE's, and SB's and RIT
- Engage in external activities geared toward identifying M/WBE's
- Advocate for small, minority and women owned business to be included in the procurement process at RIT
- Develop and maintain a supplier base which is representative of the diverse community we serve
- Strive to attain procurement goals of 25% for SB, 6% for MBE and 2% for WBE/per year

Provide a link between MBE's, WBE's, and SB's and RIT

Suppliers are encouraged to contact RIT Purchasing to discuss business opportunities with the institute. RIT Purchasing can be reached at trkpur@rit.edu or at 585-475-2107. You will be put in touch with the buyer responsible for the commodity you sell.

Engage in external activities geared toward identifying M/WBE's

RIT is an active member of the Upstate New York Regional Minority Purchasing Council.

The mission of the Upstate New York Regional Minority Purchasing Council, Inc. (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 is your Council servicing you here in Upstate New York. For additional information visit their web site at www.unyrmpci.org.

RIT also supports events sponsored by the Rochester Black Business Association. Additional information can be found at www.rochesterblackbusiness.com

RIT purchasing will also engage in other community activities and events that promote MBE, WBE and SB enterprises.

Advocate for small, minority and women owned business to be included in the procurement process at RIT

RIT Purchasing will work with MBE's, WBE's and SB's to raise the awareness of these companies to the RIT community. RIT will encourage these companies to respond to bids and offer them opportunities to showcase their products or services.

Develop and maintain a supplier base which is representative of the diverse community we serve.

RIT purchasing will maintain the vendor tracker system and categorize businesses by their size and classification. Purchasing will track MBE, WBE and SB spend and increase business to these entities wherever it makes good business sense.

