

Missouri Department of Transportation

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MoDOT External Civil Rights Division offers business development training in St. Louis and Kansas City Areas

MoDOT's External Civil Rights Division has selected two firms to provide Supportive Services to currently certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

Supportive Services programs for DBEs include business coaching, technical assistance, advanced contractor training, and guidance for formal mentor-protégé collaboration. Seminars, networking sessions, and workshops are offered throughout the year, including the popular "Doing Business with MoDOT" program conducted in communities around the state.

Philips & Associates, Ballwin MO, will continue to serve St. Louis and the central and eastern portions of the state. Bellewether Ltd., Lee's Summit MO, will serve Kansas City, Northwest and Southwest Districts.

MoDOT Supportive Services goals also include assisting small, minority, and women-owned businesses in capacity building and contracting readiness. To this end, the program provides business planning guidance through its Entrepreneurship Training Program.

"Since 2009, the Supportive Services program has graduated 165 DBE firms and we look forward to more firms joining their ranks," said George Philips, president of Philips & Associates. The next 10-



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week St. Louis Entrepreneurship Training Program kicks off Jan. 13, 2017. Applications are being accepted through Dec. 31 at www.jotform.us/modot/etp.

The members of the Bellewether team will focus on increasing capacity to DBE companies in western Missouri and will work with peer professionals within community systems with similar goals.

“Our contribution to DBE business development activity will be to pinpoint and backfill gaps in knowledge and business operations,” said Bellewether chief executive officer, Kay Saunders. “In the end, the work we do with and through our communities is to build stronger, more resilient DBE companies,”

The Bellewether team will launch the first Entrepreneurship Training Session to take place on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon, starting Feb. 10, 2017 and running through April 28 in Kansas City. Anyone interested in applying should contact Bellewether at (816)554-9400 ext. 222.

Contact information for MoDOT’s External Civil Rights Supportive Services Program, including its consultant firms Philips & Associates, Inc, and Bellewether Ltd. can be found at <http://modot.org/ecr/SupportiveServices.htm>.

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