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INDY AIRPORT AWARDS MILLIONS IN SUPPLIER DIVERSITY CONTRACTS

Indianapolis International Airport on Track to Hit Diversity Supplier Goals for 2016

INDIANAPOLIS (Aug. 31, 2016) – When it comes to giving certified disadvantaged-, minority-, women- and veteran-owned business enterprises a fair opportunity at contractual work, the Indianapolis Airport Authority has the numbers to prove its walking the talk. In the first six months of 2016, the IAA has awarded 24 percent of its supplier contractual work to disadvantaged-, minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses.

Today more than 100 business representatives attended the Business Diversity Outreach Event at the Indianapolis International Airport, where they learned about upcoming business opportunities, the procurement process, and the IAA airport system. The event represents one of the many efforts the Indy airport makes to include disadvantaged-, minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses in its mix of community-business suppliers to help run the organization and its facilities.

“We strive to include a broad range of large and small business enterprises when selecting suppliers,” said IAA Executive Director Mario Rodriguez. “We have a vast need for products and services to run this size of operation, 24/7, so certified diverse suppliers gives us a larger field of qualified and cost-effective options to choose from.”

The airport serves more than 8 million business and leisure travelers annually, employs approximately 10,000 people, and makes a local economic impact to the tune of \$4.5 billion annually.

The IAA has set a goal of awarding 28 percent of its supplier contractual work to disadvantaged-, minority-, women- and veteran-business enterprises in 2016.

From January through June, the IAA was on record with nearly \$6 million in contractual opportunities awarded to disadvantaged-, minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses, compared to the more than \$24 million in total contract dollars spent for the same time period.

“The city of Indianapolis is a place where entrepreneurs can look forward to great opportunities and a diverse economic climate,” said Maxine Russell, director of the Office of Minority & Women Business Development. “To enhance the city’s growth and economic stability, it is important to promote contracting and procurement opportunities for disadvantaged-, minority-, women- and veteran-owned business enterprises.”

Through community outreach, and events such as the one hosted today, the IAA has seen a steady growth of diverse business participation in capital and airport operational projects of more than 5 percent over the past three years.

“Not only has there been continuous growth over the last three years, but the IAA has provided new jobs and opportunities to help Central Indiana prosper, equating to a \$37.7 million spend, impacting over 160 businesses,” said Rodriguez.

More than 40 percent of the airport's concessionaires are managed by an airport concession, disadvantaged-business enterprise.

The Indianapolis International Airport, the size of a small city itself, has helped contribute to Indianapolis' recent national recognition as one of the leading communities for minority-business opportunity. Small Biz Trends online magazine named Indianapolis among its 30 top cities in 2016 that are making strides in minority business enterprise opportunities. Indianapolis was cited for its more than 27,600 established women-business owners, tax-abatement programs, grants and small-business programs offered to help pave the way to success for minority-business entrepreneurs.

To explore IAA business opportunities, [click here](#). To learn more about the IAA's supplier diversity program, visit <http://supplierdiversity.ind.com>.

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About the Indianapolis Airport Authority

The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana's largest airport system. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport, its facilities include the Downtown Heliport, Eagle Creek Airpark, Hendricks County Airport, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport. IND has received numerous prestigious awards recognizing it as a leader within its class, including best airport in North America in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 in Airports Council International's annual Airport Service Quality awards. It has also been inducted into the ACI Director General's Roll of Excellence, one of the few U.S. airports to be included in this elite group of worldwide airports. Condé Nast Traveler readers named IND the best airport in America in 2014 and 2015. IND is the first airport in the U.S. to win LEED® certification for an entire terminal campus. LEED is a green- building award for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. IND has won additional recognition for excellent customer service, concessions programs, and art and architecture.

IND generates an annual economic impact in Central Indiana of more than \$4.5 billion without relying on state or local taxes to fund its operations. About 10,000 people work at the airport each day. IND serves more than 8 million business and leisure travelers each year and averages 143 daily flights, seasonally and year-round, to 43 nonstop destinations. Home of the world's second-largest FedEx Express operation and the nation's eighth- largest cargo facility, IND is committed to becoming the airport system of choice for both passenger and cargo service. For more information, visit IND's Facebook page at [Indianapolis International Airport](#) and Twitter page at [@INDairport](#).