What does the Mountain Plains MSDC do?

The Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council (MPMSDC) provides solutions for corporations that want to partner with the Council to leverage talent, capabilities, and markets that minority suppliers represent. The MPMSDC certifies minority suppliers.

We certify minority suppliers so that Corporate America can maximize and measure the impact of minority suppliers have on communities of color and ethnicity.

Mountain Plains MSDC

Vision of the Mountain Plains MSDC

The Vision of the MPMSDC is to be the bridge to help corporations create wealth within the minority business community by connecting them to capable and qualified MBEs for contracting opportunities.

Executive Vice President's Corner
Greetings MBES, Corporate Members, and Strategic Partners!

At Mountain Plans MSDC, we are thrilled to kick off the year 2024 with exciting events and celebrations. As we dive into February, we proudly celebrate Black History Month, recognizing and honoring the achievements, contributions, and history of Black individuals.

1. **Hybrid Town Hall on February 22nd at Charter Communications**
   Mark your calendars for our upcoming Hybrid Town Hall set to take place on February 22nd at Charter Communications. This promises to be an engaging event where we’ll discuss key topics and address the latest developments in the industry. [Click here to register!]

2. **Colorado LIVE Diversity Business Summit and Connection Zone - March 14th at Kiewit:**
   Experience the dynamic synergy of business innovation at the Colorado LIVE Diversity Business Summit and Connection Zone on March 14th at Kiewit. The Connection Zone provides an exclusive chance for one-on-one discussions with our esteemed corporate members, creating a platform to foster meaningful collaborations. Seize this golden opportunity to elevate your business in 2024 and beyond. Don't miss the chance to connect, collaborate, and propel your business to new heights! [Register HERE!]

3. **MPMSDC 50th Anniversary Gala Event - October 11th:**
   As we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2024, save the date for our grand gala event on Friday, October 11th. It promises to be a night filled with celebration, reflection, and recognition of the milestones we’ve achieved together over the years.

4. **Smaller Live Events in KCMO and Nebraska Regions:**
   The festivities continue with smaller live events in our KCMO and Nebraska regions. Save the dates for July 18th and August 22nd as we bring our celebrations closer to you. Keep an eye out for registration links, coming soon!

We want you on board as we embark on this exciting journey in 2024. Your
participation and support make these events and celebrations truly special. Let’s come together to make this year a memorable one for Mountain Plans MSDC.

Stay tuned for more updates, and we look forward to your active participation in our upcoming events!

Warm regards,

Belinda Hooks
Mountain Plains MSDC Executive Vice President

2024 Programming & Events from the Mountain Plains Council
2024 Hybrid Town Hall & Awards Ceremony
"Innovating Together, Embracing Diversity in Business"

🌟 Experience the Mountain Plains MSDC Town Hall! 🌟
Don’t Miss Out on this Exclusive Event!
🌟 Strategic Insights: Gain valuable perspectives on industry trends. Discover strategic opportunities for your business.
🌟 Networking: Connect with MBEs, Corporate Members, and Strategic Partners. Expand your professional circle and build meaningful connections.
🌟 Special Guest Speaker: Join Wall Street Journal bestseller author John Baird.

Explore "Leading with Heart: Five Conversations That Unlock Creativity, Purpose, and Results." Dive into one of the top business books of the year in 2022.

Save the Date and Elevate Your Business at the Mountain Plains MSDC Town Hall! 🎉

Darretta Whitfield
Director, Supplier Diversity Charter Communications

Afternoon Keynote
John Baird Ph.D.
Executive Coach & Author Velocity Group

Cecilia Byrnes
Supplier Diversity Specialist Charter Communications

Marcy Ybarra
VP, Corporate Development Sky Blue Builders

Robert Gonzalez
Lead Project Engineering Manager UPS

Andra Hargrave
Director MBDA Minority Business Center

Agenda:
10a-11a
* Welcome
* Greetings from BOD
* Welcome from Host Sponsor & MBE Sponsor
* State of the Council Address
* MBEIC Overview
* MBDA Overview
2024 Strategic Plan
* Morning Keynote Speaker
11:15a-12:00p
* Workshop Breakouts
12:15p-1:30p
* Luncheon
* Afternoon Keynote Speaker
* Awards Program
1:30p-2:00p
* Networking
John Baird, Ph.D. is one of the premier executive coaches in Silicon Valley, and over the past twenty-five years he has worked with top leaders at start-up organizations as well as at Fortune 500 firms like Apple, Nike, and Twitter. He founded several companies, including ExecutivEdge, Edgeman Coaching, and the Velocity Group, where he is currently chairman, and serves as a fellow at Sapphire Ventures and on various nonprofit boards.

John’s recent book, Leading with Heart: Five Conversations That Unlock Creativity, Purpose and Results is a Wall Street Journal bestseller. His book was named as one of the top business books (#6) of the year for 2022 by The Next Big Idea Book Club. John is a popular presenter on podcasts, corporate keynotes and workshops helping leaders inspire their teams and organizations to high levels of performance.

John holds a PhD in Organizational Communication and Leadership from Purdue University. He spent 17 years on the faculty at San Jose State University in the College of Business, directed the MBA program, served as the Director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning, and was named the University’s Outstanding Professor in 1989. Currently, John serves on the SJSU Tower Board.  

Leading with Heart: Five Conversations That Unlock Creativity, Purpose, and Results: John Baird: 9780063296855: Amazon.com: Books
Valued Sponsors To Date

"Innovating Together, Embracing Diversity in Business"
Stay informed about the latest events and engagements organized by the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). If you're eager to expand your network, gain valuable insights, and connect with industry leaders, look no further!

To discover a diverse range of upcoming events and to secure your spot, we invite you to click on the NMSDC Events Calendar. This invaluable resource is your gateway to a world of professional growth, innovation, and collaboration within the NMSDC community.
There are many events to attend each month:

Events Calendar

Stay informed on what our strategic partners and friends of the MPMSDC are doing!

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS from our STRATEGIC PARTNERS & CORPORATE MEMBERS

(Click on the logo/flyer below for more information)

National Black History Month

Did you know that Black business ownership is growing at the fastest pace in 30 years? Black households owning a business has more than doubled, from 5% to 11%, between 2019 and 2022 and the number and value of SBA-backed loans to Black-owned businesses has more than doubled since 2020 and has surpassed $1billion in lending the last three years. You can read more at Black Enterprise or CNBC.

ICYMI Success Story - Harris Dream Clean

How is it February already? Well thank goodness we have 29 days this year because there is a
lot packed in this short month! This month we celebrate Black History Month, National Entrepreneurship Week, and the launch of Empower to Grow (E2G), an SBA program to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete for government contracts.

We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate Black business owners, entrepreneurship, or to tout the benefits of government contracting programs than sharing the story of Jordan Harris. Jordan took a $45 investment and turned it into a $1 million annual revenue company - read his story here.

## Upcoming SBA Events

**February 16, 12:00 PM CST**  
**How to Buy a Business - Seven Steps for Success**  
Join SBA and presenter Todd Bailey, President of Transworld Business Advisors of Wichita, as we discuss critical information and considerations needed when buying an existing business. From determining the value to transitioning to your first full day as owner, you will be prepared to buy the business of your dreams.

Thinking of selling a business? You should join as well to gain insight into expectations of an informed buyer. Or just join us next week for Six Steps to Sell Your Business (buyers you should check this one out as well to see the deal from the other side).

**February 23, 12:00 PM CST**  
**Let's Make a Deal - Six Steps to Sell Your Business**  
Whether you’re a serial entrepreneur ready to try your next concept or you’re ready for retirement in warmer climates, selling your business is no different than selling your house. You need to do the repairs, stage it for showing, get it on the market, and decide what you’re looking for in an offer. Todd Bailey, Transworld Business Advisors of Wichita, and Sarah Haymaker, Deputy District Director SBA Wichita, will cover the importance of valuation and confidentiality and how to best present your business for sale from preparation to closing the deal.

## Catch Us at These Events

**February 15, 6:00 PM CST**  
**Contracting with Governmental Entities**  
Wichita  
This presentation is for small businesses in the beginning stages of expanding their customer base to include one of the various governmental entities. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the processes typically involved in these types of sales, including the tools and free resources available to assist you in this endeavor. Selling to governmental entities is a bit different than commercial sales and services. The goal of this presentation is to provide some insights on how to prepare to pursue these types of opportunities.

**February 26, 8:00 AM CST**  
**Day of Workshops for Women-Owned Small Businesses**  
Elkhart  
This event comprises a series of workshops for women-owned small businesses, covering a range of topics. Registrants are welcome to attend any or all of the workshops. Multiple resources will present throughout the day including presenters from the Kansas SBDC, Kansas Department of Commerce, NetWork Kansas, U.S. Small Business Administration, Kansas Department of Agriculture and others.

$10 Registration Fee includes any or all of the workshops and lunch.
DHA Annual Contracting Open House
Registration Begins

Business owners are welcome to register for the Denver Housing Authority’s Contracting Open House, planned for Wednesday, February 28, 2024. The annual event will feature a series of virtual Breakout Sessions from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm, followed by in-person Networking from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Networking will take place at the PPA Event Center located at 2105 Decatur St., Denver, 80211.

During the Open House, business owners will:

- Receive the procurement schedule for 2024 contracting opportunities.
- Learn the basics of DHA contracting.
- Receive guidance for accessing professional services, supplies, and large and small housing maintenance opportunities.
- Hear about the current needs of prime contractors dedicated to large DHA building and modernization projects.

Each participant must pre-register to attend. For event details and registration, visit https://www.denverhousing.org/
We are Hiring at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Listed below are the current job openings with the Kansas City Fed. We appreciate your partnership in helping fill these positions with highly qualified and diverse candidates.

**Tech Solutions Admin, Associate** - Do you have a passion for technology and enjoy working in a customer-facing role? Can you troubleshoot and repair technical issues and explain complex technical information and processes to non-technical individuals? Do you have a familiarity of Linux and a desire to learn more? The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is looking for an energetic individual to join our team and provide technical support to customers locally and across the Federal Reserve System.

As an embedded IT group, the Center for the Advancement of Data and Research in Economics (CADRE) supports data or computationally intensive research and analytics for staff in the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and across the Federal Reserve System. Our technology services include endpoint support, multiple high performance computing environments, and research data warehousing services.

As part of the Front Line Support team, you will field questions from users related to MacOS, Windows, Linux GUI and command line, high performance computing, and our data warehouse. This position provides opportunities for you to apply your advanced technical and customer support skills.

**Link to Apply:** https://rb.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/FRS/job/Kansas-City-MO/Tech-Solutions-Admin--Associate_R-0000021580

**Financial Examiner – Omaha** - Are you an inquisitive, analytical person who enjoys working in teams and leading others? As part of our examination team, you’ll find a collaborative culture that encourages staffs to exercise initiative and ownership of their work. More specifically, you’ll be:

- Using an inquisitive and analytical mindset to independently review financial information, assess legal and regulatory compliance, evaluate risks within banking organizations, and ask questions to get to the root cause of potential issues or concerns.
- Leveraging strong communication skills to lead meetings with executive leaders at financial institutions and produce clear and concise written documents and reports.
- Relying on strong interpersonal skills to collaborate with team members and reach consensus with a wide range of audiences.
- Providing guidance to banking executives and coaching team members to foster maximized performance.
- Investing in the development of your peers by proactively sharing knowledge and regularly providing peer level feedback in support of the KC Fed’s focus on employee growth.

**Link to Apply:** https://rb.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/FRS/job/Omaha-NE/Financial-Examiner--Omaha_R-0000021585-1

**Software Engineer, Advanced** – At the KC Fed, our engineers work in collaborative team environments, embrace agile delivery methods, and have experience with technology with a willingness to embrace learning to meet the ever-changing and evolving technical landscape. Create products and solutions using the principles of software engineering to design, implement, configure, and optimize applications, databases, test automation tools. Perform troubleshooting, root cause analysis, are engaged in incident and service request management and provide on-call support for supported products and environments.

**Link to Apply:** https://rb.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/FRS/job/Kansas-City-MO/Software-Engineer--Advanced_R-0000021168-1
Please contact Avery Adair at avery.adair@kc.frb.org if you have questions and as always, thank you for your partnership!

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES & EMPLOYERS

DE&I VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024
1:00 - 4:00 PM EDT | VIRTUAL VIA HANDSHAKE*

The Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers is dedicated to cultivating meaningful connections between students and employers who collectively uphold the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the workplace. This event promises to be an afternoon of valuable connections, insightful conversations, and new opportunities!

*This event is open to both Handshake and Non-Handshake colleges and universities

Employer Registrations is NOW OPEN! Employers, Click Here to Learn More!

Student Registration opens January 15, 2024

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES & EMPLOYERS | mwaco.org
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES & EMPLOYERS

DE&I VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM EDT | VIRTUAL VIA HANDSHAKE

EMPLOYER SPONSORSHIP RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS</th>
<th>SILVER</th>
<th>GOLD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logo on event advertising (Handshake Banner &amp; logos within marketing toolkit for various schools to use to advertise event to students)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted email digest to student event registrants highlighting one job posting (Prior to fair)</td>
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<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>MWACE social media spotlights, one spotlight on each platform (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter - 3,000+ followers, primarily career services professionals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes registration to virtual career fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Featured in MWACE Newsletter to hundreds of career services professionals to be shared with students at various schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email to registered student attendees highlighting organization DE&amp;I efforts (Prior to fair)</td>
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<td>Feature logo on MWACE social media banners for month of February</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter - Nearly 3,000 followers, primarily career services professionals)</td>
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| INVESTMENT | $250 | $500  |
In 2024, Spectrum Reach is proud to once again offer a complimentary commercial, plus a TV and streaming ad campaign to small businesses. Applications open now through February 25th. Visit our website to learn more about the Pay it Forward program and apply today.
Ready to take your business to the next level? Join us for not one but two game-changing opportunities designed to empower and elevate your Black-owned business to heights.
Dive into the world of capital readiness and join us at the 9th Annual Black Capital Conference, happening April 6, from 10a - 4:00p MST. Don’t miss the chance to gain invaluable knowledge from industry leaders in Customer Attraction and Acquisitions, Private and Public Contracting, Business Credit, & Capital Solutions.

What You’ll Gain:
- Understanding the Capital Landscape
- Customer Acquisition Strategies
- Building Business Credit Essentials
- & much more!

Tickets include complimentary Breakfast and Lunch! Reserve your seat now!

Monthly Mastery Series: Convert Followers into Customers

Join nationally recognized entrepreneur, author, and CEO of GRINDATION, Coach Kendall in our upcoming Monthly Mastery Series, Convert Followers to Customers. February 20, at 1p EST/ 11a MST, we'll be diving deep into the world of social media marketing. Tailored for entrepreneurs and small business owners, this workshop is your key to transforming your online presence into a formidable customer acquisition tool.

What You’ll Gain:
- Building a Strong Social Media Presence
- Engagement Tactics
- Conversion Strategies
- Interactive Q&A

***No replays will be available for this series — secure your spot today!

Whether you’re diving into capital readiness or mastering the art of customer conversion, these events are tailored to ignite your path to success.

Secure your tickets now and embark on a journey to unlock your full business potential!

Join the DPS Office of Business Diversity for the upcoming Coffee Chat. This event provides a casual environment for district vendors, employees, and community members to gather and connect.
Quarterly events are attended by DPS personnel representing the corresponding meeting focus.

Calendar of Events

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Join NMSDC financial partner BCF as we celebrate Black History. This February and March, BCF will waive their $350 application fee for all applicants. The BCF loan team believes in empowering Black entrepreneurs and all business owners of color. That’s why they work to close the racial wealth gap one business loan at a time. If you’ve been in business for at least three years and want access to affordable capital, apply today for a BCF loan. Enter promotional code BHM24 for the fee waiver.

**Apply Now** [This button should link to: https://bfcapital.gatewayportal.com/]

**Learn More** [This button should link to: www.bfcapital.com]
What is the MBEIC?

Each affiliate regional council has a Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (MBEIC) that consists of owners/executives of minority businesses elected by local NMSDC- certified MBEs. As a standing committee of the affiliate regional council's Board of Directors, the MBEIC provides constructive input, promotes council events and activities, develops programs and serves as the liaison between corporate members, staff and MBEs.
NEWS from the MBEIC
February 2024

As we think about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the corporate world, we would like to share an excerpt from the recent FY22 Purpose and Inclusion report from Price Waterhouse Cooper. This strategy is driven by the continued commitment from leadership and guides their thinking and actions:

1) Culture of belonging - Establishing and maintaining a fair, equitable and welcoming environment for all people requires a shift from awareness to empathy — while demonstrating inclusive leadership that cultivates trust among our people and our clients.

2) Pathway to Partnership - Building a diverse and inclusive partnership requires cultivation of our candidate pipeline and intentionality in advancing career progression.

3) Our Role to Influence - We have a responsibility to help drive change outside our firm, including who we do business with, how we use our voice externally and the ways we lead in positively influencing society at large.

We know that the success of businesses is contingent on the different point of view that diversity brings. As the MBEIC Committee, we have a role to influence and believe the pathway to partnership is through culture. We look forward to continuing to advocate for our members.

Stay tuned.

Click here for the updated list of events. Pick one (or all) and we'll see you soon.

The MBEIC looks forward to other networking and education opportunities across the entire Mountain Plains region.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the council or any of the MBEIC members if you have any questions or suggestions on how we can better serve our MBEs.

MBDA TEAM

WHO IS THE MBDA?
The Denver Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center is the only federally-funded agency in Colorado that was created to specifically foster the growth of minority-owned businesses.

Our professional team of consultants specialize in assisting minority-owned businesses with the tools and resources necessary to achieve their goals.
Small Business: February 2024 Edition
By Andra Hargrave- Director MBDA

Asking Questions About a Solicitation

Say you found a solicitation that looks good. You are qualified according to the specified minimum qualifications, the scope of work is well within your service area, you have adequate past performance, the due date is far enough away that you can create a clean and captivating proposal, etc. What else can you do to decide if pursuing this opportunity is worth your time? Ask questions!

Asking questions to the contracting officer (BEFORE THE DEADLINE) is a great way to find out more information that is not stated in the solicitation. Inquiries about any incumbents and their ability to re-bid on the deal, why the opportunity was posted, and if the opportunity has been posted before, can help you better understand where you are positioned going into the bidding process. Sometimes asking about the budget or asking if they reward consideration for certified businesses can be helpful too. Always make sure you are asking thoughtful questions that cannot be answered by reading the solicitation or any attachments, and that you are submitting your questions in the requested manner and by the due date.
Workforce Tag is excited to be supporting the MPMSDC Council Connect newsletter for 2024. As partners with the MPMSDC, the goal of WFT is to increase resources that will support the success of our MBEs. This month we will review workforce services for the states located in the Council regions. Services vary by location. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration provides programs that are served through the American Job Centers nationwide. American Job Centers | U.S. Department of Labor (dol.gov).

Colorado has 46 workforce locations across the state. The largest are located in counties along the front range. The workforce serves job seekers that are seeking training and jobs. In addition, the workforce locations provide services to local businesses including:

- Posting open jobs through the state job site www.ConnectingColorado.com
- Assisting employers to find talent for open positions
- Hosting job events and inviting employers to participate
- Developing sector partnership to assist industry-related employers work together to identify current and future talent needs and career pathways
- Provide training for current staff that need to upgrade skills to retain their jobs and/or help the business to grow
- For specific details, visit the location in your area: Colorado Job Centers

Nebraska has 13 workforce locations across the state. Locations are based in primary cities and list the business services they provide in each of the centers listed. For example, Omaha Heartland Workforce Solutions lists some of the following:

- Posting jobs and access to resumes for potential hires
- Using onsite facilities for recruiting and interviewing
- Information on employment and wage trends
- Getting training costs reimbursed for qualified job candidates
- Any many more services
- For specific details, visit the location in your area: Nebraska Job Centers

Kansas has 23 workforce locations across the state. Locations are based in primary cities and and list the business services they provide in each of the centers listed. For example, Topeka Workforce Center, in addition to the services notes in Nebraska, also provides:

- Learning about unemployment taxes, Work Opportunity tax credits
- Learn about EEO and ADA requirements
- Have job applicants skill tested
- Any many more services
- For specific details, visit the location in your area: Kansas Job Centers

Missouri has 42 workforce locations across the state. Locations are based in primary cities and and list the business services they provide in each of the centers listed. KCMO area has two locations:

- Missouri Career Center – Central Kansas City
- Missouri Career Center - Northland Human Services Center.
Both of these locations offer many of the services listed in the other states so be sure to visit their websites.

**ATTENTION COLORADO EMPLOYERS WITH TALENT NEEDS FOR 2024.**

Workforce Services under TECP will host job seekers and Colorado employers with a need to grow their talent pipeline in information technology, advanced manufacturing, and select transportation careers across the state of Colorado. Contact Ross Gothelf (ross.gothelf@denvergov.org) to reserve your spot, or learn about additional funding opportunities that are available for employers! There is no fee for this event.

Check out the MPMSDC calendar, March 1, for more details. [Calendar of Events | MPMSDC](#)

WFT and the MPMSDC will continue to support you in all your business endeavors and welcome your input as you grow. We are trusted advisors who provide resources and technical assistance for small business and nonprofits to implement financial grants, develop grant dashboards, and communicate successful outcomes.

*Liz Ojeda, Founder/CEO and Miguel Jara-Garcia, Admin Tech*

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"February MBE Spotlight"
Company Name: North End Teleservices, LLC

Owner Name: Carmen Tapio- President & CEO

Company Description:
Located in Northeast Omaha, Nebraska, North End Teleservices, LLC is a contact center privately owned and operated by Carmen Tapio. It is the coming together of her passion for our industry and the community. Our company exists to create jobs and change lives by providing a wide range of advanced contact center solutions and exceptional service delivery to clients around the world.

Website:
Company Website

WELCOME MPMSDC NEWLY CERTIFIED MBEs
Welcome our Newest MBEs
Click on each logo for website information!
Mountain Plains MSDC Board of Directors

To meet our entire Board of Directors please check our website:

We’re grateful to our Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their thought leadership, service and support in making a difference towards minority business enterprises economic inclusion and parity.
***Mountain Plains MSDC new hires and promotions***

**To meet our entire staff please check our website:**

The Council is uniquely positioned to offer management and technical services relevant for a dynamic marketplace including: business consulting, matchmaking, contract opportunity sourcing, finance sourcing and access to international markets.

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**Reminders to Check the following:**

**Click Here for Current Opportunities**

Our bid opportunity page updates daily! This is password protected and ONLY for certified MBEs. If you need the updated password, please contact us at 303-623-3037 or communications@mpmsdc.org

**Keep checking our calendar of events page to register for upcoming events!**