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We recognize that diversity maximizes our potential for creativity, innovation, educational excellence and outstanding service to the community.
About Us — Our Goals & Strategies

Portland State University, as Oregon’s largest institution for higher education, contracts $200 million of goods and services each year. We make it our personal goal to provide a procurement system that is fair and equitable, to maximize contract opportunities for MWESBs, diversify our contract spend, and ensure a level playing field for contractors. How do we make this happen? We make it a priority to package projects in a way that is attractive to MWESB primes and include diversity as part of RFP evaluation criteria. PSU requires and evaluates MWESB subcontractor plans prior to contract award and develops campus wide contracts that include MWESBs.

Our Contracting Opportunities

Small Contracts — under $25K
PSU can informally complete small contracts and purchases among qualified contractors, including MWESBs. We can also directly negotiate these contracts and rotate small projects when practical.

Intermediate Contracts — $25K to $100K
PSU normally obtains 3 quotes from qualified contractors and suppliers, including MWESBs. Bonding (bid, performance, payment) is not required.

Formal Contracts — Over $150K
These contracts usually require a formal RFP or Invitation to Bid process. In addition to notifying qualified contractors (including MWESBs), PSU posts a public notice of the solicitation. Sealed offers are required and often additional bonding and insurance.

PSU On-Call Program—
PSU also uses its own On-Call Program for consultants and construction contractors. Since we have more discretion with these procurements, we encourage contractors to join this program. Additionally, public notices regarding PSU Bids and RFPs are posted on the PSU website www.pdx.edu.

Office of Minority, Women, and Emerging Small Business—
PSU regularly uses the OMWESB website to locate qualified contractors and suppliers. While we welcome the opportunity to do business with self-identified firms, we encourage contractors to become certified through Oregon’s MWESB Program. www.oregon4biz.com

Areas of Work—
1. New Commercial Construction
2. Building Renovation and Repair
3. Goods, Supplies and Equipment
4. Professional Services

Our Future Plans — Grow With Us!
PSU has many exciting plans for the future and we want you to be a part of them. These future plans include, but are not limited to:

1. Establishing a formal Contracting Equity Policy
2. Continuing the use of aspirational goals
3. Increasing use of campus wide contracts for various goods and services
4. Increasing prime contractor reporting requirements
5. Engaging PSU leadership in the support of equity, inclusion and diversity

A Sampling of Our Successes

- **Lincoln Hall Tower Project**: listed aspirational goal of 15% MWESB subs—selected contractor offered 20%.
- **Collaborative Life Sciences Building**: 15% overall MWESB participation, and MWESB subcontract awards totaled $25 million.
- **Parking Structure 1**: realized a 37% utilization of MWESB contractors.