

# Policy Statement



## BOARD POLICIES

**Policy No. 3037**  
12/10/2019  
Revised 2/20/2024

### COLLEGE WIDE POLICIES

#### Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

Oakton College recognizes the importance of increasing access and opportunities for businesses owned by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities<sup>1</sup> in public contracts in an effort to overcome the discrimination and victimization such firms have historically encountered.<sup>2</sup> It is the College's policy to promote the economic development of businesses owned by minorities, females and persons with disabilities by setting aspirational goals to award contracts to businesses owned by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities for certain services as provided by the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females and Persons with Disabilities Act, 30 ILCS 575/0.01 *et seq.* (the "Act") and the Business Enterprise Council for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities (the "Council").<sup>3</sup>

In accordance with 30 ILCS 575 Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act the College will, to the best of its ability, set aspirational procurement goals to award contracts for insurance services, investment services, information technology services, accounting services, architectural and engineering services, and legal services as defined in the Act to meet not less than 20% of the total amount spent on contracts for these services collectively. The aspirational goals will represent at least 11% for those contracts awarded to minorities; contracts representing at least 7% of the total to be awarded to women-owned business; and contracts representing at 2% of the total amount spent to businesses owned by persons with disabilities.

In support of this policy, the College will encourage the participation of qualified minority, female and persons with disability owned businesses by advertising, whenever possible, with trade associations, service organizations, minority newspapers and other appropriate media and other organizations focused on the needs of businesses owned by minorities, females and persons with disabilities to alert potential contractors and suppliers of opportunities. The College will support key administrative and staff members to attend and participate in training sessions, workshops, conferences and seminars dealing with procurement through qualified minority, female and persons with disability owned businesses in compliance with the Act.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in 30 ILCS 575/2

<sup>2</sup> See 30 ILCS 575/1

<sup>3</sup> This Council was created to implement, monitor, and enforce the goals of the Act. See 30 ILCS 575/5

In furtherance of the above:

1. The College President<sup>4</sup> shall appoint a liaison to the Council;
2. The College Liaison shall file an annual compliance plan with the Council, which shall include a copy of this Policy, signed by the College President, which shall outline and summarize the College's goals for contracting with businesses owned by minorities, females and persons with disabilities for the current fiscal year, the manner in which the College intends to reach these goals, a timetable to reach these goals, and procedures to support this Policy as specified by the Act<sup>5</sup>;
3. The College Liaison shall file an annual report with the Council<sup>6</sup>;
4. The College Liaison shall provide notice to the Council of proposed contracts for professional and artistic services<sup>7</sup>;
5. The College shall use bid forms identifying the bidders' percentage or disadvantaged business utilization plans; and percentage of business enterprise program utilization plan<sup>8</sup>; and
6. The College shall comply with all other requirements of the Act.

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Joianne L. Smith, Ph.D., President

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> 30 ILCS 575/6-(a).

<sup>6</sup> 30 ILCS 575/6-(c).

<sup>7</sup> 30 ILCS 575/6-a.

<sup>8</sup> 30 ILCS 575/7(6)