

## Upcoming Events

### June 27th

IDOT-Secretary of  
State Car Seat Check  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Crowne Plaza  
3000 S Dirksen Pkwy  
Springfield, IL 62703

Contact:  
Megan Fairheart  
[megan.fairheart@illinois.gov](mailto:megan.fairheart@illinois.gov)

### July 3rd

Festival of Life  
12:00 pm to 10:00 pm  
Union Park  
1501 W Randolph St  
Chicago, IL 60606

Contact:  
Lesla Branham  
[lesla.branham@illinois.gov](mailto:lesla.branham@illinois.gov)

### July 9th

Target Market Hearing  
10:00 am  
Gateway Conference  
Center  
200 NE Water Street  
Room 201  
Peoria, IL 61602

Contact:  
Dave Alexander  
[david.s.alexander@illinois.gov](mailto:david.s.alexander@illinois.gov)

For a complete list of  
events, visit [http://  
www.diversity.dot.  
illinois.gov/event\\_  
calendar.aspx](http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/event_calendar.aspx)



# Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters!

June/July 2014

## A Month of Pride

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, established to recognize the impact that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had on the world.

The LGBT movement began in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York, where a police raid resulted in a riot that lasted three days. Since then, activists have fought valiantly for equal rights not influenced by sexual orientation or gender identity. For LGBT individuals who live in the state of Illinois, this dream became reality when Governor Pat Quinn signed the marriage equality bill, making Illinois the 16th U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage. The law took effect June 1, 2014.

A welcome change for Michael A. Forti who in December 2012 became the Illinois Department of Transportation's newest and first openly gay Chief Counsel. This Northwestern University School of Law graduate has more than 30 years of legal experience.

"I would like to think that... being selected for this job is primarily on my 30-plus years of legal experience, but I also think it demonstrates a commitment to diversity on the part of Secretary Schneider and the Administration," said Chief Counsel Forti.

For the past 18 years, Chief Counsel Forti has worked in the public sector beginning in the City of Chicago's (City) Law Department, first as a

Chief Assistant and later as a Deputy Corporation Counsel. "The success at IDOT depends greatly on the ability of our diverse leadership team to operate at high levels and do what is best for the state of Illinois," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. "We realize the importance of a diverse workforce, and appreciate the wealth of knowledge and expertise Chief Counsel Forti brings to the department."

Chief Counsel Forti is originally from St. Louis, but now resides in Chicago. He is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Federal Trial Bar and the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago.

## IDOT Congratulates 2014 Graduates of HCCTP

The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Office of Business & Workforce Diversity is proud to congratulate the more than 270 individuals who have graduated so far this year from the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP). The program, which is dedicated to increasing the number of skilled minorities, women and disadvantaged individuals in the

transportation construction industry, has graduated 1,140 graduates total statewide with the number expected to continue to grow.

In collaboration with the Federal Highway Administration, IDOT initiated HCCTP in late 2009, in an effort to increase access to highway construction jobs for minorities, women and disadvantaged individuals. The HCCTP emphasizes life-long learning and provides

opportunities for further education and assistance to improve employability in Illinois' highway construction industry. The program is administered by the Illinois Community College Board and now implemented through 12 community colleges throughout the state.

For more information about the program, visit [http://  
www.dot.state.il.us/sbe/  
hcctp.html](http://www.dot.state.il.us/sbe/hcctp.html).

## IDOT Announces Current Procurement Opportunities

The Illinois Department of Transportation announces current procurement opportunities open for bid. To find a full list of opportunities, potential vendors can visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at [www.purchase.state.il.us](http://www.purchase.state.il.us).

## **IDOT Spotlight: Jaime E. Martinez, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary**

On June 1, 2014, Jaime E. Martinez was appointed as the Chief of Staff for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Chief Martinez holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Eastern Illinois University, a Juris Master of Arts in Law and Economics and a Juris Doctor

from George Mason University School of Law. He is a distinguished graduate from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

Prior to his appointment, Chief Martinez served as a Legislative Assistant to the Under Secretary of the U.S. Army, commanding Officer, 4th Battalion in

the 3rd Infantry, Staff attorney at the John Marshall Law School Veterans Legal Support Center and Clinic, and most recently as General Counsel with the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Chief Martinez currently resides in Chicago.

## **Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities Honors One of IDOT's Own**

IDOT employee David Dailey is among those recently honored by the Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities (ICED) for exhibiting strong leadership and commitment towards supporting individuals with disabilities in the workplace.

Dailey, who is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator for IDOT, was awarded "State Employee of the Year" by ICED. Each year, the ICED award recognizes leaders among state agencies in various categories for

creating a workplace environment that gives every worker an opportunity to fulfill their potential under the ADA and the Illinois Human Rights Act.

Dailey, who has worked for the agency more than 20 years, has taken an unusual and extraordinary approach to placing individuals with disabilities in employment opportunities. Just within IDOT, he was the visionary behind the Student Professionals with Disabilities Program, which was started in 2004. The program is a partnership between

IDOT, Springfield School District 186, Illinois Department of Human Services (Division of Rehabilitation Services), United Cerebral Palsy/Land of Lincoln, and the Springfield Association for Retarded Citizens. The program focuses on training disabled young student professionals in office/clerical skills, as it teaches social and life skills necessary to achieve their goals.

Please extend your heartiest congratulations to Dave Dailey for his latest accomplishment.

## **IDOT Announces First Human Capital Strategic Plan**

As a part of Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider's vision, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) released its first Human Capital Strategic Plan to help create and foster a skilled, knowledgeable workforce that can meet and fulfill the emerging needs in transportation. Secretary Schneider released the plan at a roundtable event in Chicago with more than 20 industry leaders in attendance to begin building

a 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce that supports the state's multi-modal transportation system.

Jobs in the transportation sector are projected to grow 23 percent by 2040, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But almost two out of three industry CEOs in surveys indicated they are worried they won't have the workers they need to meet those goals due to

retirements and a shortage of training opportunities.

The Human Capital Strategic Plan aims to address the "skills gap" by establishing a framework for IDOT and its industry partners to identify workforce trends, maximize existing resources, and develop solutions to attract new and diverse staff. For more information, visit [www.dot.state.il.us/opp/planning.html](http://www.dot.state.il.us/opp/planning.html).

## **IDOT Hosts Open House for New South Suburban Resource Center**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently announced the opening of the second Chicago area resource center to serve as a one-stop shop for those interested in working on IDOT projects.

Earlier this week, Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider was joined by state and local officials for the official grand opening for the new South

Suburban Resource Center, which is located at the Ludeman Development Center, 114 N. Orchard Drive, in Park Forest.

The new resource center provides minority- and women-owned businesses the assistance they need to participate in IDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program. Contractors already in the program can learn more

about contracting opportunities and bidding information. Staff will always be on hand to provide technical and management support and a computer lab will be available also.

For more information, visit: [www.dot.il.gov/sbe/ssassistance.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/sbe/ssassistance.html) and [www.dot.il.gov/dbecenters.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/dbecenters.html) or call the South Suburban Resource Center at (708) 283-3618.

## **Special July Letting Announced**

The Illinois Department of Transportation is preparing for a special July letting, which is scheduled for July 11, 2014. The July letting is currently advertising one project totaling a programmed estimated

amount of \$53,000,000. The project is the construction of a new flyover ramp from Northbound I-90/94 (Dan Ryan Expressway) to I-290 Westbound including 5 concrete retaining walls, lighting, and other related work,

located in Chicago. The DBE contract goal for the Circle Interchange project on the July letting is 17 percent. This project has a Project Labor Agreement. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/desenv/delett.html>.