Dear Diane,

The mission of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council is to significantly increase business relationships between our corporate members and our certified MBEs. We believe that minority business development is a key component of reducing poverty, unemployment, increasing wealth, and integrating American society. You are receiving this email in order to keep you abreast of developments with the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, Supplier Diversity Issues and Minority Business Development. If you like what you read please share internally and externally.

Upcoming Events

There are several events coming up on our calendar that are designed specifically for MBEs to learn about corporate opportunities. We know how busy everyone’s schedule is, but these are events often hosted by our corporate members with the expressed purpose of finding out more about you and your business with the ultimate aim, to make you a valuable supplier to their companies. Here are some events you should consider:

- **May 13, 2015** - GNEMSDC 2nd Quarterly Meeting, 1 - 4 pm, Hosted by UConn 405 Babbidge Rd, Storrs, CT 06269.
- **May 14, 2015** - Access Health CT - MBE Luncheon, 12 - 3 pm at United Way of Greater New Haven.
- **May 15, 2015** - MBE Orientation GNEMSDC Bridgeport Office, 333 State St. Bridgeport CT 06604. Click here to RSVP.
- **May 17-23, 2015** - Tuck School of Business "Building a Successful Minority Business Program" at Dartmouth College Hanover, NH. Click here if you would like to obtain information on scholarship opportunities.
- **May 18-20, 2015** - Diversity Alliance for Science 8th Annual East Coast Conference & Expo, Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel, 1000 Spring Street, Elizabeth, NJ. Click here for more information and to RSVP.
- **May 19, 2015** - RSVP Pullman & Comley Legal Seminar, 9:30 - 11 am, GNEMSDC Bridgeport Office
- **May 27, 2015** - Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Supplier Diversity Event "Engage and Connect"; 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA; RSVP
- **July 13, 2015** - GNEMSDC Supplier Diversity Golf Classic, Lake of Isles at Foxwoods.
- **September 24-25, 2015** - GNEMSDC Trade Expo at Foxwoods.
- **November 18, 2015** - GNEMSDC - MBDA - CWE Supplier Diversity Best Practices Forum at Fenway Park, Boston, MA.

Pullman & Comley Legal Seminar - May 19, 2015

Classify Your Employees Properly - Avoid Government Penalties & Private Litigation

This presentation will cover

- The difference between employees and independent contractors; the "ABC Test" and other applicable standards.
- Exemptions from overtime requirements; the "salary basis" test and exempt duties.
- Federal and state enforcement initiatives; what to do when the
Department of Labor comes knocking

**Location:** GNEMSDC Bridgeport Office 333 State Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

[Click here to RSVP]

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**Corporate Member of The Week: Aetna**

![Aetna Logo]

Founded in 1853 in Hartford, CT, Aetna is committed to providing individuals, employers, health care professionals, producers and others with innovative benefits, products and services. The health and well-being of the people in our communities is important to Aetna. They believe that healthy communities lead to a healthier world.

Aetna received the 2015 GNEMSDC National Corporation of the Year Award.

**Supplier Diversity Program**

Supplier diversity is an important component of Aetna's business strategy. Through collaboration with Procurement, we work to integrate Supplier Diversity processes into how our company purchases goods and services. It helps the company to better understand and serve multicultural markets. The ability to effectively attract and engage traditionally underutilized suppliers is critical for successfully achieving our goals in a multicultural world. Their Supplier Diversity Program builds solid business relationships with certified minority, women, LGBT, disability, veteran, and small-business suppliers. We seek to leverage Supplier Diversity in order to better understand our multicultural markets, improve our high-quality products and services and create a stronger more vital company.

Aetna accepts certification from these third-party organizations:

- National Minority Supplier Development Council®
- Women's Business Enterprise National Council
- National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- U.S. Business Leadership Network
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Approved state, city, or local government municipalities, on a case-by-case basis

To create more business opportunities for diverse and traditionally underutilized suppliers, the company requires that its prime suppliers be part of Aetna's Second-Tier Subcontracting Program. This allows traditionally underutilized suppliers to work through the prime suppliers to provide products and services.


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**MBE Of The Week: LDI Mohegan LLC d/b/a KOTA**

![KOTA Logo]
KÔTA, A Mohegan LDI Enterprise is a premium provider of digital office technology solutions from the industry’s most reputable manufacturers and vendors. Knowledgeable Account Representatives and Certified Specialists will share their expertise, offering your organization, office or production print environment unparalleled competitive advantages and the ability to navigate through today's complex digital marketplace.

KÔTA is a Mohegan term meaning "close association," is a best practice representing both parent companies' commitments to people, customer service and a cornerstone of our business. KÔTA has been recognized by the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council as a bona fide Minority Business Enterprise, serving the Southern New England and Greater NY/NJ Metropolitan areas with a diverse product portfolio of emerging digital technologies for copy, scan, send, managed print, production print, document workflow and visual communications.

For more information, please visit http://www.kotasolutions.com/ or call (860)862-6401.

QuickBooks Seminar - Three Part Thursday Series

Are you a contractor, engineering firm, or a service provider that bills for time and material? Do you depend on spreadsheets or notepads to create your estimates? Would you like to learn how your estimates, billing and cost reports can be generated from QuickBooks?

Join our QuickBooks training sessions to gain this invaluable, hands-on experience.

Register here for 3-part workshop.
May 21 / May 28 / June 4
GNEMSDC Business School 333 State Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

For questions contact Andres Lopez via email.

Bridgeport MBDA Business Center

On behalf of the Bridgeport and Boston MBDA Business Centers and the GNEMSDC thank you for your support of the 1st Annual Business Beyond Gaming (BBG) Summit held April 30th at the world class Mashantucket Museum and Research Center.

Special thanks all to our supporters:

- Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (MPTN)
- Foxwoods Resort and Casino
- Staples
- PepsiCo
- MPTN Chairman Rodney Butler,
- Foxwoods President & CEO Felix Rappaport
Click the following link to browse through the BBG photo gallery.

http://tomficklin.blogspot.com/2015/05/st-annual-business-beyond-gaming-summit.html

**BondSure 2015**

If you are a Southern Connecticut minority contractor in need of a bid or performance bond, Contact Andres Lopez or visit www.bondsure.org.

BondSure is a state funded surety bond guarantee program. This program is co-managed by GNEMSDC and Community Capital Corporation. Up to $100,000 in collateral is provided to facilitate the issuance of a surety bond to minority contractors.

**Can your business survive a disaster?**

Do you have a plan for your business in the event of a prolonged power outage? According to the Red Cross 40% of businesses do not reopen after a disaster. ...YOU NEED A PLAN.

A Disaster Recovery Plan can increase your chances of survival.

Please contact Tony Peters apeters@gnemsdc.org for a free consultation or go to www.PrepareCT.com for more information.

**Invitations for Bids and Opportunities**

- Haynes Construction Company - [Invitation to Bid](#)
- Landscaping & Irrigation Bid Package # 02-90 - Bass Pro Shops - Steelpointe Harbor, Bridgeport - Contact Anthony Soprano (585) 943-8050.
- Pioneer Valley Transit Authority is seeking proposals for a qualified [Owner's Project Manager](#)
- Mass Gaming Commission has recently posted two positions for staff attorneys. For more information click [here](#)
- Turner Construction Project Bid - [Union Station/Environmental Services](#)
- CT Lottery Corporation [RFP Announcement](#)
- City of Boston current [Bidding Opportunities](#)
- Keolis Commuter Services - following new job opportunities are available: [Deputy Director of Training; Human Resources Information System Analyst; Director of Quality & Performance Improvement; Signal Maintenance and Construction](#)
- The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston’s vision revolves around the core notion of excellence in serving the public. They have highly skilled and proud employees and provide meaningful and challenging development opportunities to a diverse workforce. Please visit their career page for additional information and a listing of open positions. [http://www.bostonfed.org/about/employment/index.htm](http://www.bostonfed.org/about/employment/index.htm)

**FYI**

- [How To Avoid A $81,000,000 Liability](#)- Gonzalez, Saggio & Harlan LLP Article Feature
- The [2015 GNEMSDC Gala Photos](#) can be found here.
- The MBE Magazine is hosting the Welcome Reception at the Austin Convention Center on June 23, 2015 and the "30th Anniversary Wrap Reception" will follow, featuring the 2nd Annual [WBEs Who Rock contest](#). The deadline to nominate MWBEs and corporate members has been extended to May 15th.