



News Release

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Meet the Buyer Event Helps Vendors, Supplier Connect

GRAND RAPIDS – Local municipalities and non-profits need a strong network of suppliers in order to succeed. Many of the individuals who purchase for these agencies want to be sure the process is open to everyone. The mission of the West Michigan Public Purchasing Alliance (WMPPA) is to ensure inclusiveness and equal opportunity for all businesses to sell their products and services.

WMPPA is hosting a “Meet the Buyer” Conference on Wednesday, October 19. The conference is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the GVSU Loosemore Auditorium, 401 Fulton Street West in Grand Rapids. This year’s event theme is **“Providing Small Business Opportunities.”** The WMPPA is excited to welcome two speakers: Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council President Michelle Robinson. An open house called **“Meet the Buyer”** will also be held, allowing vendors to meet with the Alliance members and to hear about upcoming business opportunities.

“WMPPA recognizes the need to have everyone represented in their vendor base,” says Rhoda Kreuzer, President of the WMPPA. “Not only is it the right thing to do, the moral thing to do, it is the best economically for our organizations and communities. At a time when our economy is growing, everyone must participate in that growth.”

The event gives vendors a chance to meet buyers from Kent County, the City of Grand Rapids, the City of Kentwood, The Rapid, Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Community College, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University and more. Those who attend can also meet with resource professionals from Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW) and Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council (MMSDC). Registration is just \$25; you can sign up for the event [here](#).

About the Speakers:

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss is the City of Grand Rapids’ first female Mayor. She previously served as a Second Ward City Commissioner for 10 years. Mayor Bliss is Vice President of the Michigan Municipal League and serves on the boards of the Interurban Transit Partnership, Downtown Development Authority, Experience Grand Rapids and Grand Valley Metro Council, among many other organizations.

Michelle Sourie Robinson is the President and CEO of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council (MMSDC), a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and developing successful business relationships between minority business enterprises and multinational corporations. Annually, the MMSDC helps facilitate over \$26 billion in spend between corporations and certified minority owned businesses.

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