

Teammates,

The month of March is National Procurement Month, presenting the opportunity to recognize the great work of our State Purchasing Bureau within the Department of Administrative Services.

In Nebraska state government, we are constantly working on ways to improve how we serve the great people of Nebraska. Under Governor Ricketts' leadership, our mission has emphasized customer focus and continuous improvement. Recently, the State Purchasing Bureau has answered that call to action while re-examining our state contracting process from the perspective of our customers.

As the team examined this process, they found that it was often times confusing, lacking transparency, and frequently presenting companies with roadblocks to doing business with the State. They also realized that by addressing these issues they could contribute to Nebraska's economy while creating more opportunities for women-owned, minority-owned, and small businesses right here in our own communities. From this customer-focused inspiration, the Procurement Concierge Program was born!

This program coaches Nebraska businesses on the bidding processes by dedicating a state teammate to walk the business through the process, step by step. This effort makes the bidding process easier and more accessible so historically under-utilized businesses can compete with bigger companies. We launched the program in [October](#) which I shared about on my social [media platforms](#). Since that time, 29 Nebraska businesses have gone through our Procurement Concierge Program with resounding feedback of their positive experience and eagerness to begin bidding on contracts.

These initiatives will increase awareness for women-owned, minority-owned, and small businesses, while keeping more taxpayer money in Nebraska. Any interested businesses can check out the [State Purchasing Bureau portion](#) of our website to get connected with a procurement professional. The early successes of this program are very encouraging and I'm excited to see how it will progress and allow for more Nebraska businesses to partner with the State. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues on the State Purchasing team on this great example of customer driven innovation!

Jason Jackson

Director, Department of Administrative Services