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**Contact: Catherine Bakerian
(302) 672-5120
(302) 382-0069 cell**

DE Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprise Partners with Florida to Increase Supplier Diversity

Dover – Delaware’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Minority & Women Business Enterprise (OMWBE) has partnered with Florida’s Department of Management Services (DMS) Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD) and California-based Insight Center for Community Economic Development (Insight) for a state peer-to-peer match project allowing both offices to share best practices and centralize economic development efforts for their local minority- and women-owned businesses.

“The peer-to-peer match gives Delaware the opportunity to learn from Florida, which has established itself as one of the leading promoters of minority- and women-owned business enterprises in the country,” said L. Jay Burks, OMWBE director. “They have been successful in creating great momentum among their businesses and converting it into real prosperity for their local economy. Sharing policies, plans and encouragement with our Florida peers will bring fresh eyes to our program and help us grow substantially.”

In the past two years, OMWBE has nearly doubled the number of certified minority- and women-business enterprises and has provided assistance to more than 1,000 businesses about state purchasing opportunities and strategies for success with state and corporate purchasing. Through this partnership, OMWBE plans to adopt more goal-based initiatives, develop a comprehensive policy for recruitment and continue efforts to raise awareness about enterprise opportunities throughout the state.

“Florida government spent nearly \$3 billion with minority businesses in fiscal year 2007-08 and is recognized nationally as a model supplier diversity program,” said DMS Secretary Linda H. South. “Supplier diversity is good for businesses and government in Florida, in Delaware and across the country. We are happy to share our expertise.”

The partnership, which was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding, was established through the efforts of the Insight Center, which has been creating opportunities for

minority- and women-owned businesses since 1969. The Insight Center conducted the first-ever analysis of inclusive business policies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprise (OMWBE) is responsible for providing strategic information and assistance to better position businesses to do business with the State of Delaware.