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Illinois Energy Policy Summit

*Empowering Digital Migration:
From the Pipes & Wires to the Boardroom*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

ACCENTURE | 161 N. CLARK ST. | CHICAGO, IL

- 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM Registration
- 09:30 AM - 09:45 AM **Welcome Address**
- 09:45 AM - 10:00 AM **The State of Latinos in Energy**
Hon. James Campos, Director, Office of Economic Impact & Diversity, DOE
- 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM **Department of Energy Presentation**
- 10:45 AM - 11:00 AM Break
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM **Bottle A Model For Supplier Diversity**

A supplier diversity program helps attract qualified diverse businesses to support various operational needs. In addition to increasing the participation of groups that historically have been underrepresented, a focus on supplier diversity also avails equitable access to services and economic prosperity to all the communities an industry serves.

In some states, key leaders in the public and private sphere have recognized the need for greater supplier diversity in the utility industry. The method to increasing the participation of minority-owned businesses has varied from a collaborative stakeholder initiative to a legislative mandate. In Illinois, legislators enacted a mandate that requires investor-owned utilities to report on spend with diverse suppliers. Since its implementation, the state's largest privately held utilities have spent over \$2 Billion with Illinois-based diverse businesses. This economic impact is attributed to not only the action of Illinois legislators but also the commitment of regulators, utilities, and minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses. Therefore, when evaluating how to increase supplier diversity, stakeholders in other jurisdictions should consider the

Illinois model.

A roundtable of key leaders will highlight the critical components of the supplier diversity paradigm in Illinois to identify a replicable framework that other states can implement. Additionally, there will be a discussion on areas of improvement that stakeholders are addressing to advance goals further in Illinois.

Moderator:

Hon. Mara Candelaria Reardon, Indiana State Representative

Panelists:

Hon. Sadzi Martha Oliva, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission

Hon. Martin A. Sandoval, Illinois State Senator- 11th District

Lewis Binswanger, VP of External Affairs, Nicor Gas

Martin Cabrera, Jr., Founder & CEO, Cabrera Capital

12:00 PM - 01:15 PM Lunch

01:15 PM - 01:45 PM **Afternoon Address**

01:45 PM - 02:45 PM **The Future Energy Workforce**

Technology is playing a greater role in the energy industry. Because the integration of innovation has extended beyond generation, tech-forward consumers are asking for increased access to not only renewable energy but also customer energy management tools and services such as mobile applications, social media notifications, and smart devices. Accordingly, the intersection between the Internet of Things and energy demands a new skill set from the workforce. Particularly, mid- to upper- level management roles, which have always required at least a bachelor's degree and basic skills with office software systems, now require proficiency in data platforms, mobile applications, and the technology advancing the latest disrupter.

This panel will explore the needs of the Future Energy Workforce. Moreover, subject matter experts will highlight the necessary training on technology in order to prepare for and meet the expectations of the future, job opportunities that will emerge that haven't existed before, and how the unpredictable future of technology demands will impact opportunities for people of color, specifically for Latinx professionals.

Moderator:

Hon. Maria Bocanegra, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission

Panelists:

Lori Flores Rolfson, VP of Operations, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas

Jorge Perez, Executive Director, HACIA

Juan Salgado, Chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago

02:45 PM - 03:00 PM Break

03:00 PM - 04:00 PM **A Needed Surge for Minorities on Boards**

Undeniably there is a need for more Latino directors on American corporate boards. Although there has been an increase of Hispanic appointments, the composition of these boards, particularly in the energy industry, are still unrepresentative of the communities they serve. To ensure that the perspectives of the various minority communities are accounted for in the design of the energy ecosystem, during and beyond the current digital revolution, Latino and other minority leaders must build a candidate pipeline and actively seek out opportunities to participate in the power sphere.

Trailblazing Latino corporate board members will highlight their path to a board position and collectively strategize on how to develop future leaders and facilitate board appointment opportunities for minorities.

Moderator:

Sonia Del Real, Executive Director, CCLC Foundation

Panelists:

Esther Aguilera, President & CEO, Latino Corporate Directors Association

Betsy Berkhermer Credaire, CEO, Berkhermer Clayton Inc.

Gloria Castillo, President & CEO, Chicago United

04:00 PM - 04:45 PM **Accenture Presentation**

04:45 PM - 05:00 PM Closing Remarks

05:00 PM - 07:00 PM **Networking Reception** | Hosted by Osceola