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## **NEWS RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Trade fair offers small and minority businesses chance to expand opportunities**

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Office of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification (SMBCC) and the Division of Procurement Services of the South Carolina Fiscal Accountability Authority invite owners of small and minority businesses to the “Take it to the Next Level” 2016 Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification Forum.

The event, happening Wednesday, March 2, 2016, from 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. at the Medallion Conference Center, 7309 Garners Ferry Rd., Columbia, provides a perfect opportunity for small and minority business owners to learn more about doing business with the State of South Carolina.

The forum offers professional development sessions, trade show booths for vendors to showcase goods and services, and one-on-one networking opportunities with State and local procurement officials.

Registration is open to certified small and minority-owned businesses and those businesses owners interested in becoming certified. Tickets are \$40 and include entrance for two people, an exhibit table and chairs, and a complimentary continental breakfast and lunch. Click [here](#) to register and purchase tickets or to learn more about the event. Vendors can set up exhibits starting at 7 a.m. the day of the event.

Registration is also required for procurement officials. They may register to attend by clicking [here](#).

SMBCC, formally known as the OSMBA, works to promote the interest of small and minority businesses as a part of the free enterprise system; thereby, enhancing economic growth and development in South Carolina.

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