



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
RoAnn M. Destito, COMMISSIONER

Heather Groll - Public Affairs Office
(518) 474-5987
heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov
<http://www.ogs.ny.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 5, 2014

2014 PURCHASING FORUM & CONTRACTOR TRADE SHOW TO BE HELD MAY 14 & 15

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the 14th State Purchasing Forum and Contractor Trade Show hosted by OGS with cooperation by the Office of the State Comptroller, to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, May 14-15, at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. The theme for this year's conference is "Planting Seeds Today for Tomorrow's Success," reflecting how procurement today affects New York State's future.

"We are happy to be continuing the tradition of showcasing strategies that make procurement more efficient, transparent, professional, and responsive to the needs of our State and local buyers," Commissioner Destito said. "This year's forum and trade show is better than ever. For example, OGS is developing a new 'Buy New York State' initiative, designed to increase the visibility and purchase of local agriculture goods and dairy products. Through our exhibitors and training sessions, attendees will see firsthand how OGS is working to modernize our operations and harness the state's significant buying power, in order to help achieve Governor Cuomo's goal of making government less costly and more efficient."

Early registration indicates more than 1,000 will be attending this year's forum. The training will cover a wide range of topics to assist purchasing staff from state agencies, municipalities, schools, hospitals, and other entities that use OGS centralized state contracts. New classes this year will focus on increasing New York agricultural purchases, training on maximizing the use of the new NYS

Contract Reporter website, and promoting best practices in information technology procurements and lean practices in procurement.

This two-day event provides those attending with an opportunity to share best practices with other purchasing professionals and attend a trade show that includes preferred source and state contractor exhibits. New this year is an area that will host New York State food producers, vendors who sell recycled and remanufactured goods, and small and minority-and-women owned enterprises. A wide variety of state and local representatives will benefit from the opportunities presented at the forum, including finance office managers, procurement staff responsible for writing requests for proposals and other bid documents, business office staff who use OGS contracts to buy equipment and other large purchases.

Local governments and other organizations eligible to use OGS contracts can register to attend this free event by visiting the OGS website at <http://ogs.ny.gov>.

Online registration will continue through Friday, May 12, and walk-in registrations are welcome at the event.

Questions may be directed to OGS customer services 518-474-6717 or customer.services@ogs.ny.gov.

###