

Office of Diversity in Business Practices Celebrates the Success of the Goods and Services Summit 2024

The 2024 Goods and Services Summit was a resounding success, with 175 attendees—up from 150 in 2023—gathering to foster growth, collaboration, and innovation. This year's event featured an engaging panel discussion and speed mentoring sessions, which attendees praised as the most valuable aspects of the Summit. Small business owners benefited from expert guidance on key topics like financial management, marketing, operational efficiency, and human capital management. The personalized one-on-one meetings with purchasing agents from the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) were another highlight, with 64 of 70 scheduled appointments successfully completed. These sessions provided tailored insights into upcoming business opportunities, helping vendors align their offerings with District needs. Attendees also gained access to the District's new bidding platform, Bidnet Direct, positioning them to stay informed about future solicitations through a streamlined process.

The Summit made a significant impact on student participants as well. Eighty-five percent of students reported a better understanding of the skills needed to succeed as entrepreneurs, learning valuable information about starting and growing a business, and feeling inspired by the speakers to explore their own business ideas. Additionally, 77% of students felt they gained critical insights into the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and how to overcome them, leaving the event more confident in their potential career paths. Networking sessions further enhanced the event, fostering connections between SDPBC departments and a diverse array of suppliers. By prioritizing meaningful engagement, practical learning, and impactful dialogue, the Goods and Services Summit 2024 set the stage for continued growth and success within the local business and education ecosystems.