

Port Authority receives awards for work in economic inclusion

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CINCINNATI, OH (FOX19) - The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority announced today that they received both the President's Regional Partnership Award from Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber and the Friend/Partner Award from the Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program during each organization's annual event on September 29, 2011.

The President's Regional Partnership Award is given to a partner organization or individual that works with the African American Chamber to improve the economic climate for the minority business community. The Port Authority's formal commitment to work with the African American Chamber on the Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati project formally elevated the project team's ability to design and execute a holistic economic inclusion approach. Deborah Robb's experience and guidance has enabled the team to achieve an estimated 25% inclusion goal, almost evenly split across minority and women owned businesses.

"The Port Authority's experience in the Queen City Square project among others is helping us to usher in a higher standard for how inclusion gets done. Deborah Robb's familiarity with our contracting community, policies, and construction processes has afforded us positive relationships and outcomes for this project" states Sean Rugless, President of the African American Chamber.

The Friend/Partner award is given to members of the Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program (GCMCP) who publically commit to the promotion of inclusion and diversity in the Greater Cincinnati legal community, while fostering the GCMCP's mission.

“The Port Authority has allowed its Director of Economic Inclusion, Deborah Robb, to actively participate on the steering committee of the GCMCP. As a result, Ms. Robb has reminded the committee on many occasions that inclusion can be accomplished if an organization is sincere about change,” states nominator John J. Williams, Of Counsel, Minnillo and Jenkins.

Beyond her role at the Port Authority, Deborah brings her expertise to the South Central Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council (SCOMSDC), the African American Chamber of Commerce, the UC Health Supplier Diversity Team, the Tristate Healthcare Supplier Diversity Consortium, and the Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program.

“I am honored to receive both of these awards on behalf of the Port Authority,” said Ms. Robb. “We feel privileged to have been given this recognition, and will continue to collaborate with various business development groups to foster and grow minority and women business enterprises in Greater Cincinnati.”