MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Directors, Chairs and Project Directors
From: Edward Kane, Director
Date: January 30, 2014
Subject: MWBE and Preferred Sources Vendor Fair

The Office of Purchasing and Contracts will host their annual Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) and Preferred Source Vendors Fair in the Campus Center Ballroom and Assembly Hall on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. which will include displays and information from the participating vendors.

An MWBE is a business enterprise that has been given special certification status through the New York State Finance Law. The acquisition of goods and services from a certified MWBE vendor has been given particular flexibility in the statutory competitive procurement guidelines. It is the University’s policy to take affirmative action to ensure that a New York State certified MWBE is given an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to provide the University with commodities and services at competitive prices.

A Preferred Source is a designated vendor who, in an effort to advance certain social and economic goals, has received special provider status under New York State statute. NYS Correctional Services, NYS Preferred Source Program for People Who Are Blind (Industries for the Blind), Industries for the Disabled and the NYS Office of Mental Health are the current Preferred Sources. The acquisition of commodities and services from these vendors has been given exemption from statutory competitive procurement guidelines. It is the obligation of each state agency to procure goods and services from a Preferred Source provider whenever possible.

In an effort to promote awareness of the MWBE and Preferred Sources programs, we cordially invite you to join us for the opportunity to meet and discover the goods and services that are available from these businesses, and discuss any needs your department may have. Purchasing staff will be available to answer any questions, or talk with you about your upcoming projects.

Please join the Purchasing staff in the Campus Center Ballroom and Assembly Hall on April 8. We look forward to seeing you.