



State of Illinois  
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

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## **IDOT's Pam Simon Receives Egretha Foundation's Diversity Mentorship Award**

*Director of Business and Workforce Diversity recognized for efforts to promote  
diversity and inclusion through Mentor Protégé program*

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Department of Transportation's Director of Business and Workforce Diversity has received the prestigious "Diversity Mentorship" award from the Egretha Foundation. Pam Simon was recognized for her work in forming IDOT's Mentor Protégé program and her commitment to enhancing the capabilities of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

"We are proud of Pam's exemplary dedication to the Mentor Protégé program and the impact it's had on the department," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. "This award is a reminder of what we, as an agency, strive for every day: an inclusive transportation system that benefits all residents in Illinois."

The Egretha Foundation presents this award annually to women who have demonstrated dedication to promoting diversity and inclusion at a national level. The Egretha Awards are presented to women who have demonstrated ethical and professional behavior that serves to motivate and educate aspiring African American women.

Simon has worked for IDOT for 28 years. She was appointed as the Director of the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity in February of 2016.

Offered for both engineering and construction, IDOT's Mentor Protégé program pairs larger, established firms and prime contractors with a smaller protégé firm to provide developmental assistance for multiple business functions, including marketing, business planning, technical assistance and financial counseling. The protégé must be a certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) firm.

The Mentor Protégé program, which began as a pilot in 2007, received permanent status in 2012 and now has 75 participating firms. For more information on the program, including how to get involved, click [here](#)

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