

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 10, 2019 MEDIA CONTACT: <u>Alexis Reed</u> Director of Marketing and Communications (240) 403-3529

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Hosts 15th Annual Procurement Conference U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen and GSA Administrator Emily Murphy Among 80+ Speakers

ROCKVILLE, MD: On Friday, May17, 2019, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's GovConNet will host its 15th Annual Pathway to Growth Procurement Conference – the region's largest small business procurement conference. The Procurement Conference takes place from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at The Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, Maryland.

Business leaders seeking a competitive advantage on winning federal, state, and local government contracts have a unique opportunity to gain access and make meaningful connections with key leaders and experts in government and industry. At the Procurement Conference, you can achieve six months of business in six hours.

According to Conference Media Sponsor **Bloomberg Government**, government contractors in Montgomery County won \$8.5 billion in federal contracts last year -- \$3.3 billion of which was awarded to small business.

"As evidenced by the Bloomberg data, Montgomery County businesses that respond to government procurements win big," said Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Georgette "Gigi" Godwin. "We accelerate the success of small businesses by providing them with an impactful conference that creates opportunities to meet with and learn from thought leaders and other small businesses."

This year's conference opens with a Plenary Session; U.S. General Services Administrator Emily Murphy will provide keynote remarks for attendees. As Honorary Chair of the Procurement Conference, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen will provide remarks from his unique perspective as a national policy leader. Senator Van Hollen is serving in his 15th year as Honorary Chair. Additionally, U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary Andrea Brandon will address attendees during the Plenary Session.

The Keynote Panel will be moderated by **Pamela J. Mazza** (Managing Partner, PilieroMazza PLLC) The panelists are U.S. Small Business Administration Associate Administrator **Robb Wong** and U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship Counsel **Theresa Meers**.

This year's conference features:

- Eighty speakers, presenters, and mentors;
- An expanded expo hall with over 80 exhibitors;
- Eight roundtable discussions with industry experts;
- One-on-one matchmaking sessions with 22 government agencies and prime contractors; and
- Nineteen concurrent breakout sessions are organized in four conference tracks.

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

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Over 30 federal, state, and local governments will be represented at the conference; 40+ prime contractors will be attending this year's event as exhibitors, presenters, and attendees.

The 2019 Procurement Conference will feature **four breakout session tracks** for attendees to follow throughout the conference:

- Track 1: Federal Government Procurement Opportunities
- Track 2: Maryland Procurement Opportunities (State & Local)
- Track 3: Pathway to Growth
- Track 4: Trending Information Technology

Roundtables will serve as an open discussion with a Q&A section. Industry experts serve as mentors during these discussions. The four roundtable discussion topics are as follows:

- Roundtable 1 Managing Your SBLO Relationship
- Roundtable 2 Multiple Award Contracts: How Do I Get a Piece of the Pie?
- Roundtable 3 Everything You Wanted to Know About GSA Schedules
- Roundtable 4 How to Leverage the 8(a) Program to Accelerate Your Success

One-on-one **matchmaking sessions** and the **Expo Hall** will run simultaneously with breakout sessions and roundtable discussions. Breakfast and lunch will be included in the conference.

To learn more about information about the Procurement Conference, including exhibitors, speakers, matchmaking hosts, etc., <u>click here</u>.