



## **WRMSDC's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Multi-Industry Supplier Diversity Expo, Go for GOLD! Creating Wins for Diverse Suppliers**

*August 25, 2023, Expo offered business connections for Fortune 500s and entrepreneurs*

**South San Francisco, CA-** On August 25, 2023, at The South San Francisco Conference Center, the Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) hosted its 45<sup>th</sup> annual Expo in South San Francisco, California. The Expo took place from 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and included many diverse suppliers, corporate representatives, and public attendees from across the nation.

The Expo opened with a light breakfast and concurrent activities: informal Meet-Ups tables staffed by corporate participants, allowing diverse suppliers to walk up and engage in conversation; Halls of Opportunities displaying upcoming opportunities from Corporate Members, Primes, and B2B opportunities; professional headshots station allowing attendees to receive a complimentary headshot and a Rejuvenation Room where attendees dropped in for breathwork, laughing yoga, and meditation sessions, hosted by Sam Sharma, Vice President at Saitech, a WRMSDC certified MBE.

The afternoon plenary began with a secret opening ceremony with the following participants: Tanya Nixon of Aflac, Belinda Guadarrama of GC Micro, Lili Kwan of Salesforce, Rahul Kuruvilla of Triune Infomatics, Sal Peinado Jr. of Autodesk, and Christine Maddela of Storyville RD. Following the ceremony were speeches from Make a Difference Supporters, along with short sizzle reels presented by Headline Supporter, T-Mobile, WRMSDC MBE Platinum Partners Certus Cybersecurity Solutions LLC, Eagle Promotions, iTalent Digital, Rose International, SBM Management, SHI International, World Wide Technology, Zones, Inc, and Annual Video Partner Storyville RD. A line-up of experts and education was presented by corporate participants on the following topics: Succession and Wealth Preservation, JPMC Supplier Diversity Update & Outlook by JP Morgan Chase, Access to Capital & Alternative Access to Capital by Bank of America, Accelerate Digital Transformation: AI as Help and Hindrance by CSU East Bay, How to Secure Government Contracts by California DGS and My Next Career Path, The War on DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) by Reimagining Supply Chain Diversity, and Grit & Resilience by Equitify. The Expo also included an entertainment fundraiser titled "\$1G for Charity". Like the hit TV gameshow "Who Wants to be a Millionaire", two teams were pitted against one another to answer questions, culminating in a final team captain battle. All funds raised during the \$1G for Charity battle went towards supporting WRMSDC's mission.

Following the afternoon plenary were five concurrent breakout room sessions where diverse suppliers had the opportunity to float between rooms and hear directly from over 20 corporate representatives from the following industries: Construction and utilities; Finance & Healthcare; Staffing & Professional Services; Entertainment, Gaming, Hospitality & Government; and Technology & Manufacturing. Corporate participants covered the state of the industry, AI, Machine Learning and Emerging Technologies, upcoming opportunities, and more. The evening networking reception allowed all attendees to network and unwind to hip tunes, great food, and drinks.

The event would not have experienced the level of success it did without the supporters who made it all possible: T-Mobile, AT&T, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, Google, Vistra, Certus Cybersecurity Solutions LLC., Genentech, PG&E, GC Micro, EBMUD, CalTrans, Sands Corporation, Salesforce, SCIF, Southwest Gas, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and Siemens.

### **About WRMSDC**

The Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) supports the growth and business development of minority communities by championing the use of minority-owned businesses in Northern California, Nevada, and Hawai'i. Please visit us online at [www.wrmsdc.org](http://www.wrmsdc.org).