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Contact: Mary Flannery  
215.937.5424  
[mary.flannery@phl.org](mailto:mary.flannery@phl.org)

## Nearly 500 Turn Out for PHL Business Opportunity Forum

*Workshops on doing business at the Airport, networking and more highlight event*

**PHILADELPHIA** – City of Philadelphia Director of Commerce Harold T. Epps was among the speakers who addressed nearly 500 attendees at the Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) annual Business Opportunity Forum today. The participants included representatives of large firms and small businesses, and minority-, woman-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) interested in learning about opportunities available at the Airport. The event at the Airport Marriott Hotel, which culminated the City's Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week activities, included informative workshops and networking opportunities.

Participants in the Forum learned how to identify and compete for consulting and professional services contracts; create effective strategies for construction projects; explore concessions opportunities; and became knowledgeable about procurement requirements and responsibilities for the City of Philadelphia and the Airport. A Networking Exchange Breakfast session connecting prime contractors and minority firms opened the Forum.

The participants heard from Airport professionals with expertise in DBE compliance and certification, finance, professional services contracts, and engineering and construction; prime contractors and DBE sub-contractors, and representatives from various business sectors including the airlines, concessionaries, construction, as well as labor.

"Philadelphia International Airport is a cornerstone of the regional economy, contributing more than \$14.4 billion annual in economic activity," said Epps. "This Forum plays an integral role in the Airport's approach to supporting the region's diverse business community. It's one-stop shopping where entrepreneurs of all types can tap into the many opportunities at PHL and become part of the Airport's vibrant business community."

In addition to Director Epps, the speakers included Airport CEO Chellie Cameron, American Airlines Vice President of Philadelphia Hub Operations Cedric Rockamore, and Bonnie St. John – Paralympic Ski Medalist, Fortune 500 Business Consultant, Rhodes Scholar, Former White House Official and best-selling author – who participated in a keynote fireside chat for the luncheon.

**More**

## 2/Forum

Attendees also had the opportunity to become familiar with the Airport's Job Portal website, [phljobportal.org](http://phljobportal.org). The site is a resource for both individuals seeking employment with the Division of Aviation, Airport concessions, airlines, car rental companies, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and other federal agencies at the Airport as well as employers needing to fill positions.

"The opportunities for businesses of all sizes at a major airport like ours are substantial and diverse," Cameron said. "This Forum is ideal for businesses and individuals to realize the scope of these opportunities, learn how to participate and network. This event is an annual highlight on our calendars and we are pleased that it was scheduled to close the City's Minority Enterprise Development Week this year."



*Business Opportunity Forum Participants networked to explore business opportunities at PHL.*

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.