

MWMCA's Exclusive Interview with Gary Tuggle of UMMS

- 1. Please tell us how you got started in Supplier Diversity and your level of experience? Why is your passion so strong about it?**

As a career public servant (approx. 35 years) I have always understood the importance of Supplier Diversity. Supplier Diversity became an integral part of the UMMS response to the COVID 19 Pandemic as we looked to Diverse suppliers to provide quality goods and services to our system during this difficult time. I'm passionate about Supplier Diversity because I recognize the economic impact our spend could have on traditionally underserved communities of color.

- 2. What's your role with UMMS?**

I serve as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the UMMS Enterprise Supply Chain and Strategic Sourcing

- 3. UMMS is a very large corporation with many affiliate healthcare facilities associated with it. Will you have oversight and or access to assisting all of them in reaching or achieving supplier diversity goals? If not all, then which ones?**

I represent the entire UMMS system a provider of support to all of our member organizations.

- 4. What are the major areas of procurement will you concentrate on most often, like medical supply and equipment, construction, design and so forth?**

All of the above.

- 5. How does one get registered as a diverse supplier vendor with UMMS and how does one locate where the new opportunities originate from time to time? Is the procurement process lowest responsible/responsive bid or best value?**

[Minority Business Program Process | University of Maryland Medical System \(umms.org\)](#) We're currently working on transparent RFQ process that will make them available to the public. Best value

- 6. How does your office track spend to diverse suppliers? And how do you address potential mistreatment to diverse suppliers?**

We currently track eligible spend at the tier 1 and 2 levels. Mistreatment of diverse suppliers is not tolerated.

- 7. If any of your procurements are procured from collective buying agreements that have prohibitive language forbidding diverse suppliers from participating in them, what's your recommendation in getting inclusion?**

N/A