

State of Michigan Second Annual

# Public Purchasing CONFERENCE

2009

## **Jim Birch**

Panelist: The Advantages of Cooperative Purchasing

**Jim Birch is the Vice President of Sales for OfficeMax. He has been with the company for 24 years. He currently serves on the MMBDC Board, the MMBDC Executive Finance Committee and the MHCC Board. He is an Eastern Michigan University graduate.**



**Jim Birch**  
Vice President Sales

Grand Valley State  
University  
De Vos Center  
Grand Rapids, Mich.  
June 10, 2009

State of Michigan Second Annual

# Public Purchasing CONFERENCE

2009

## **Ester Burns**

**Panelist: The Advantages of Cooperative Purchasing**



**Ester Burns**  
Assistant Director

**Ester Burns is the Assistant Director of Procurement Services and Coordinator for Supplier Diversity at Grand Valley State University, where she has devoted nearly 31 years of service. In these roles, she endeavors to improve and increase awareness about the value of community service engagement, mentoring women and minority business owners, and volunteer involvement.**

**Ester co-founded the Regional Alliance for Diversity in Public Purchasing and the West Michigan Sustainable Purchasing Consortium. She dedicates her services to many regional organizations including the Michigan Minority Business Development Council, Michigan Women's Business Council, Alliance of Women Entrepreneurs, Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women, West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Grand Rapids-Grand Haven-Holland-Muskegon Chambers of Commerce Coalition, and the Center for Empowerment and Economic Development. In recognition for her commitment and achievements, Ester earned awards from the National Association of Women Business Owners, the Michigan Women's Business Council, Michigan Minority Business Development Council, and Grand Valley State.**

Grand Valley State  
University  
De Vos Center  
Grand Rapids, Mich.  
June 10, 2009

State of Michigan Second Annual

# Public Purchasing CONFERENCE

2009

## **Tony Des Chenes**

**Facilitator: The Advantages of Cooperative Purchasing**



**Tony Des Chenes**

Director

Commodities Division  
Purchasing Operations  
Department of Management and Budget  
State of Michigan

**Tony is the Director of Commodities Division of Purchasing Operations in the Department of Management and Budget for the State of Michigan overseeing the implementation of over \$2 billion in commodity contracts. Tony is also responsible for the MiDEAL Program, a consortium program allowing local units of government, K-12 schools, public universities and non-profit hospitals to use State contracts. His other areas of responsibility include an energy consortium and implementation of a green purchasing program.**

**Prior to that Tony was Director of Strategic Business Development, which was made-up of both Professional Services and Information Technology contracting. Tony has held numerous positions in State government including Advisor to the State Transportation Commission, Assistant to the Director of the Department of Management and Budget and Director of Policy and Public Affairs for Department of Management and Budget. Tony has Bachelors of Science Degree from Central Michigan University and a Masters in Public Administration from Western Michigan University.**

Grand Valley State  
University  
De Vos Center  
Grand Rapids, Mich.  
June 10, 2009