

Washington & Jefferson College Policy on Vendor Diversity

Washington & Jefferson College's strategic plan, adopted in October 2019, declares that the College will foster a supportive, diverse culture where all members of the community are valued, respected and fully included in the life of the College. W&J pledges to design policies, practices and training to ensure that this is a reality. Providing opportunities to a diverse group of vendors, which are committed to providing excellent service and superior value, is an integral part of this plan and a means of supporting the economic development of the larger community. W&J recognizes the value that diversity brings to our entire community.

To this end, W&J is committed to increasing participation of minority owned, woman-owned, veteran-owned, and disadvantaged small businesses through a program to seek out well-qualified vendors and contractors to ensure that their products and services are considered in the College's procurement decisions across the campus. We will strive to increase the annual spend with these organizations. We will further extend this commitment by encouraging all W&J partners and vendors to adopt similar approaches in selecting their vendors and subcontractors.

The Office of Business & Finance will work with local and regional business organizations to proactively identify and pre-qualify suppliers that are minority-owned, woman-owned, veteran-owned, or disadvantaged small businesses. All department managers should also explore opportunities to obtain goods and services from diversity vendors. When all business considerations (price, quality, timeliness, etc.) are equal among competitive vendors, preference should be given to these businesses.