

# Federal Acquisition *Insight*



**\*\*Countdown to the Competencies Survey\*\***

April 2007



## From the Desk of the Director: Karen Pica

How can you influence the future of the contracting workforce? What can you do to help determine what training and career development programs are available next year and beyond? In the short term, if you are a contracting professional in a civilian agency (outside DoD) you can complete the Contracting Workforce Competencies Survey. The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), the Federal Acquisition Institute, your agency, and you will be able to use the information gathered through this voluntary and anonymous survey to develop a snapshot of where you would like more training, where we should target career development and recruiting, and how to better build workforce solutions to help you in your job. Look for the survey on Monday, April 30, 2007, and we look forward to your responses.

## Your Survey, Your Career: The Top Ten Reasons to Participate in the Contracting Workforce Competencies Survey

Steve Calandro  
Sr. Human Capital Consultant, Contractor, FAI

You've no doubt participated in surveys like the *Federal Human Capital Survey* (FHCS), last completed in 2006. High quality data about the overall government workforce spurs the need for more specific information, such as the *IT Workforce Capability Assessment Survey*, and now FAI's *Contracting Workforce Competencies Survey*.

Of course, you want to contribute to the solutions in your profession, but you're busy (a GAO study says so). Why, then, should you take 30 minutes out of your busy day to answer questions about your work and your environment? You may well ask "What's in it for me?" As it turns out, there's plenty in it for contracting professionals.

Here, then, are the .... ***Top Ten Reasons to Participate in the Contracting Workforce Competencies Survey***

Number 10 - Make your training and development needs known to others in your agency beyond your direct supervisor.

Number 9 - Compare your skill set to others across the government, as well as to your agency's contracting workforce.

To See Reasons 1-8, visit  
[www.fai.gov/april07news.asp](http://www.fai.gov/april07news.asp)

## Missed the FACE Early Bird Registration? It's Not Too Late to Get the Regular Rate

Ivy Alston  
Conference Planner, Contractor, FAI

FACE, the Federal Acquisition Conference & Exposition, is just over two months away. Early bird registration may be over, but you can still save money by registering prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Online registration is available at [www.fai.gov/face](http://www.fai.gov/face). The conference, presented by FAI, is being held at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC, on June 19-20. Plan your schedule at FACE, and view the session titles, descriptions, and learning objectives online at <http://www.fai.gov/face/breakout.asp#1>.

More FACE details can be found at  
[www.fai.gov/april07news.asp](http://www.fai.gov/april07news.asp)



## Contract Specialists: We Need YOU

Cynthia Schoepel  
Sr. Human Capital Consultant, Contractor, FAI

When you review proposals, what helps you make an appropriate award decision? Accurate, timely, and in-depth information from the offerors.

When the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), the Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI), and your agency review strategies to plan for workforce development, what will help them make appropriate decisions?

The full article is available at  
[www.fai.gov/april07news.asp](http://www.fai.gov/april07news.asp)

## **\*\*Countdown to the Competencies Survey\*\***

For more information or to submit an article, contact the editor at [christine\\_packard@sra.com](mailto:christine_packard@sra.com) or visit [www.fai.gov](http://www.fai.gov).

### **Check Out the AbilityOne Program at the GSA Expo 2007!**

Stephanie Lesko  
Public Affairs Specialist, JWOD

The name may have changed, but the mission of the AbilityOne (formerly JWOD) Program is the same: *to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the federal government.*

AbilityOne will be offering three courses to Expo attendees. The course names and descriptions are provided below.

#### **AbilityOne/JWOD Program Overview: How to Leverage the JWOD Program to Fulfill Your Needs**

Are you responsible for purchasing products or services for your agency? This course provides an overview of the AbilityOne/JWOD Program, describing how it fulfills customers' needs for products and services while also helping to employ people who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

To view additional course information, go to [www.fai.gov/april07news.asp](http://www.fai.gov/april07news.asp)

### **Acquisition Training for Teams**

Tom Edwards  
Sr. Organizational Effectiveness Consultant, Contractor, FAI

The Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI) is committed to providing training that meets the needs of the acquisition workforce. One of these needs is the growing appreciation that multiple roles and responsibilities are required to plan, award, and manage federal contracts. To address this reality, FAI offers a course called "Performance-Based Acquisition – Workshop for Teams." This course is designed to strengthen collaboration within inter-disciplinary teams: contracting officers, program managers, contracting officer's representatives/contracting officer's technical representatives, (CORs/COTRs) and requirements personnel involved in performance-based acquisition.

This three-day workshop helps existing teams deepen their working relationships. Teams that are formed for the purpose of attending the workshop come away with a greater appreciation of the various tasks performed by other professionals and the contributions they make to the acquisition process.

For more on acquisition training, see [www.fai.gov/april07news.asp](http://www.fai.gov/april07news.asp)

### **Acknowledging Excellence: Acquisition Awards Update**

Christine Packard  
Communications Specialist, Contractor, FAI

#### **Nominations Being Accepted**

- ▶ Just out: Nomination forms are now available for the Chief Acquisition Officers Council (CAOC) Contract Management Award 2007. Two awards will be presented at FACE in June, one to a civilian agency team **or** individual, and one to a defense agency team **or** individual. Nominations of teams or individuals demonstrating outstanding contract management through effective contract management practices should be submitted by April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to Maria Hernandez at [maria\\_hernandez@sra.com](mailto:maria_hernandez@sra.com).

For nomination information and other award updates, visit [www.fai.gov/april07news.asp](http://www.fai.gov/april07news.asp)

### **Green Purchasing Moves Forward Under E.O. 13423**

Dana Arnold  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

The federal community has made tremendous progress over the past decade in purchasing "green" products and services—products with positive energy and/or environmental attributes. President Bush recently took action to move our green purchasing efforts beyond the statutory and prior executive order requirements.

On January 24, 2007, the President signed Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*. The E.O. sets goals for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water consumption intensity, green product acquisition,

management of toxic and hazardous chemicals, waste prevention and recycling, sustainable buildings,....

The complete article is available at [www.fai.gov/april07news.asp](http://www.fai.gov/april07news.asp)

### **Registration Update**

Have you clicked on FAI.gov's *Register for Courses* link lately? We heard you and we responded! The page has been updated to provide more course and registration information. You can now find course locations, dates, and times, as well as instructions for how to register for courses, and a link to the registration site. Take a look, and while you're there, register for one or more of the courses below which still have available seats.

#### **CAII (Contract Administration II)**

- ▶ Washington, DC June 18

#### **CFII (Contract Formation II)**

- ▶ Washington, DC May 21

#### **CON 202 (Intermediate Contracting)**

- ▶ New York, NY June 4

For additional courses, go to [www.fai.gov/april07news.asp](http://www.fai.gov/april07news.asp)