**Section 4.4545 Small Business**

a) Small Business Specialist

The CPO shall designate one of the SPOs to be responsible for engaging a small business specialist, who shall have the duties set forth in Section 45-45(e) of the Code, and who shall also act as coordinator of small business initiatives among the Universities. The designated SPO shall make the small business annual report to the General Assembly required under Section 45-45(f) of the Code.

b) Small Business Set-Asides

Based upon recommendations of the small business specialist and the Universities, and in conformity with Section 45-45 of the Code, the CPO may designate as small business set-asides a fair proportion of supply and service contracts under the jurisdiction of the CPO for public institutions of higher education for award to small businesses in Illinois.