

New Jersey Business Leadership Network

at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce

Enhancing competitive
employment opportunities
for skilled job candidates
with disabilities.

Media Alert

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WASHINGTON, DC (September 22, 2010) – Today, the New Jersey Business Leadership Network (NJBLN) at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation received the **2010 Annual Leadership Award State Affiliate of the Year**, which was presented during the USBLN® 2010 Annual Conference & Expo. The awards recognize leaders in seven categories - including Partner of the Year, Affiliate of the Year, Lead Employer of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Supplier Diversity Corporation of the Year, Employee Resource Group (ERG) of the Year and Market Share Corporation of the Year.

The NJBLN was established in 2007 and has become a valuable partner for many non-profit, government, and business organizations in New Jersey that are working to advance disability employment equity. Among the initiatives the NJBLN supports are Disabilities At Work and Disabilities At Work Radio, an initiative that acknowledges corporations that go ‘beyond compliance’ in hiring practices or helps job seekers understand what employers expect (www.DisabilitiesAtWork.org); the Disability Supplier Diversity Program (DSDP), a program of the USBLN through which individuals with disabilities who are majority owners of a business can receive a credential that certifies them as disabled-owned and allows them to compete with female- and minority-owned business; and AccessibleEmployment.org, a fully ADA-compliant job board dedicated to creating employment opportunities for qualified people with disabilities.

Amy Mansue, president and CEO of Children’s Specialized Hospital and chair, NJBLN Steering Committee, states, “We are very proud to have received this award. As corporations seek to increase the diversity of their workforce, it is critical that people with disabilities are ready for the opportunities that will be out there. And the NJBLN is helping to make that happen.”

Dana Egreczky, president of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation, adds, “We would not have received this national award were it not for the support of the NJBLN Steering Committee and our other partners.” Members of the Steering Committee represent employers that have a strong commitment to inclusion such as Prudential Financial, Merck & Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb, Newfield National Bank, and Novartis.

(more)

The NJBLN was established with a grant, and continues to receive support, from the Kessler Foundation (www.KesslerFoundation.org). The NJBLN has established tight working relationships with the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Disability Services, and the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University.

For more information, visit the website at www.NJBLN.org or call John Sinzer at 609-989-7888.

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About the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®)

The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) is the national disability organization that serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across North America, representing over 5,000 employers. The USBLN® promotes the business imperative of the preparation and inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace, marketplace, and supply chain while supporting the development and expansion of its BLN affiliates. The USBLN® recognizes and supports best practices in hiring and advancing employees with disabilities, marketing to consumers with disabilities, and encourages contracting with vendors with disabilities through the development and certification of disability-owned businesses (www.usbln.org).

About the NJ Business Leadership Network (NJBLN)

The NJBLN is a sanctioned affiliate of the US Business Leadership Network located at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation in Trenton, New Jersey. The NJBLN is an employer-led endeavor that promotes best employment practice and provides enhanced employment opportunities for skilled job candidates with disabilities.

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