



US Business Leadership Network Announces 2008 Exceptional Leadership Winners

For Immediate Release
October 14, 2008

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WASHINGTON, DC (October 14, 2008) – The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) today announced the winners of its **2008 Exceptional Leadership Awards**. The awards, which were presented during the USBLN® 2008 Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon, recognized leaders in three categories - including Partner of the Year, Affiliate of the Year and Employer of the Year.

• PARTNER OF THE YEAR

The Oregon Business Leadership Network nominated **Incight** for the Partner of the Year award. Since 2006, Incight partnered with the OBLN to jointly develop our Internship and Summer Hire Center. Together they collaborated with other partners to link Oregon business with the emerging talents with students with disabilities.

• AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

Wilson Resources nominated the **First Coast BLN** for Affiliate of the Year award. The First Coast BLN established a strong partnership with the Job Opportunity Consortium, an organization of more than 25 service providers assisting people with disabilities to become employed. The BLN and the JOC have partnered on training programs for job seekers with disabilities and training for JOC service providers on how to work with employers.

• EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

The Connecticut BLN nominated **Travelers** for Employer of the Year award. Travelers, a leading insurer, has been involved in championing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Because of the company's strong belief in and support of equal opportunity and access for all employees, Travelers uses a multifaceted approach in its commitment to meet this effort. Not only does Travelers strive to improve employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities through their community outreach efforts, but continually strives to improve awareness as well as the sensitivity and education of its employees.

The 2008 Exceptional Leadership Awards capped off yet another successful USBLN® Annual Conference, whereby attendance increased by 24 percent from last year.

The USBLN® is the only national business organization currently representing BLN chapters in 32 states – including the District of Columbia – and more than 5000 employers using a “business to business” strategy to promote the business imperative of including people with disabilities in the workforce and marketplace.

For additional information about the USBLN® and the USBLN-ODEP Strategic Alliance, please contact John D. Kemp by phone at 202-466-6550 or email at john.kemp@ppsv.com.

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