



## US Business Leadership Network Announces 2008 Board of Directors; New Board includes Representatives from IBM, McDonald's, Motorola, Starbucks, and Walgreens

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WASHINGTON, DC (May 12, 2008) – The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) today announced that it has named its 2008-09 Board of Directors. New representation on the USBLN® Board of Directors includes **Frances West**, Director of IBM's Human Ability & Accessibility Center, **Kevin Bradley**, Director of McDonald's Corporation Inclusion & Diversity, **Kevin Foster**, Director of Motorola's Quality Master Black Belt, **Marthalee Galeota**, Program Manager of Starbuck's Accessibility, and **Deb Russell**, Manager of Walgreen Company.

"The further diversification of the USBLN board of directors better positions us to promote the sound business practice of employers hiring people with disabilities, as well as marketing their products and services to consumers with disabilities," summarized **Katherine O. McCary**, Vice-President of SunTrust Bank and Chair of the USBLN® board of directors. "Companies such as IBM, McDonald's, Motorola, Starbucks and Walgreens are leading the way in expanding inclusion, making diversity and disability part of the accepted corporate culture in America."

**Frances West** is Director of the IBM Human Ability & Accessibility Center. The Center's mission is to enable human capability through innovation, so all people can reach their potential, regardless of age or ability. She is charged with the worldwide responsibility of establishing IBM market leadership by promoting IBM advanced research technology, products, services and solutions in the area of human ability and accessibility. Prior to this assignment, Frances was Director, Channels, Alliances and Business Development for the Lotus Software Group. She recruited and managed IBM Business Partners globally that specialize in Lotus software. In addition, Frances was Director, Financial Services Sector Solutions in the IBM Global Services organization. She managed investment funding and executed financial services solution plans for banking, insurance and financial markets globally.

**Kevin Bradley** is a Director of Inclusion and Diversity at McDonald's Corporation in Oak Brook, Illinois. In this position he is responsible for leading the Company's external national partnerships in the Asian American and disability communities. Internally, he provides internal support and consultation to the Company in the areas of employment, diversity councils, and people with disabilities and workplace accommodations. His work also includes serving as an internal resource to both the McDonald's Asian Employee Network and the Asian McDonald's Operators Association in the area of diversity. He plays a critical role with McDonald's Asian Business Vision initiative, leading that group's People Team.

**Kevin Foster** has worked for Motorola for over 15 years and currently manages the Global HR Quality and the Digital Six Sigma function. Prior to this, Kevin held various leadership roles in Organization Development, Global Inclusion and Diversity, and EEO/AA Compliance. Kevin is also the founder and co-leader of the Motorola Business Council for People with Disabilities and has been active on several boards and committees including USBLN, American Foundation for the Blind, Career opportunities for Students with Disabilities, and the Foundation for Blind Children. Kevin graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Industrial Organizational Psychology.

**Marthalee Galeota** is a grassroots, disability community advocate who has worked in the rehabilitation and non-profit worlds for over 20 years. Marthalee currently serves as Program Manager for Starbucks' Accessibility and Disability. She is passionate about Starbucks becoming one of the most inclusive brands in the world and energizing the company around universal access and to that end is establishing an Accessibility Center of Excellence.

**Deb Russell** is a Corporate Manager for Walgreen Co. She oversees the company's commitment to have one third of the workforce in its latest and all future distribution centers consist of qualified individuals with disabilities. The first of these centers opened in January 2007. Ms. Russell has advised and monitored the efforts in order to disseminate lessons that are learned. Walgreen Company is the nation's largest drugstore chain and the 7th largest retailer. Fortune Magazine ranks Walgreens as the 45th largest company in America and it employs over 200,000 people. Deb's background includes working in the field of employment of people with disabilities for more than 15 years. These experiences include being a Special Education Teacher, job developer, and addressing issues related to the employment of people with disabilities within the workforce investment and Medicaid systems. She has presented nationally on topics related to the employment of people with disabilities.

The USBLN® Board of Directors is also comprised of several existing members, including **Beth Butler**, Vice-President for Employment Compliance of Wachovia Corporation, **Kirby Croyle**, Assistant Vice-President & HR Consultant of Wells Fargo Bank's Internet Services Group, **Debra Ruh**, President & Founder of TecAccess, **Cathy Healy**, Director of Training and Curriculum Development of the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC), **Katherine O. McCary**, Vice-President & Manager of Accessing Community Talent, Disability Resource Center at SunTrust Banks, **Marie Trotter**, Disability Compliance Officer at Harvard University, and **Erin Riehle**, Director of Disability Services at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

The USBLN® is the national organization that supports development and expansion of its BLN chapters across the country, serving as their collective voice. It is the only national disability organization led by business for business. The USBLN® recognizes and promotes best practices in hiring, retaining, and marketing to people with disabilities. There are 44 Business Leadership Network chapters in 32 states, including the District of Columbia, representing more than 5,000 employers across the US. The BLN uses a "business to business" approach to educate, promoting the business imperative of including people with disabilities in the workforce. Learn more at [www.usbln.org](http://www.usbln.org).

BLN Chapters are business organizations headed by a Lead Business who exemplifies these practices and shares experiences with other members-employers-within the state or region. These activities include career fairs, disability mentoring and internship programs, and training programs including disability business etiquette, accommodation, and other disability issues deemed significant to employers. Businesses join BLN chapters to learn how to expand their diversity recruiting efforts to include individuals with disabilities- not as a social model but as a business case to recruit talent and better serve their customers. BLN successes serve the workplace, the marketplace, the community and the economy. The USBLN® Vision is that every employer recognizes and benefits from the best practice of including people with disabilities in their workforce and marketplace.

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