



Jill Houghton Appointed as USBLN[®] Executive Director

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WASHINGTON, DC (November 1, 2011) – The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN[®]) today announced that Jill Houghton has been appointed Executive Director. This appointment was made by unanimous decision by the USBLN[®] Board of Directors during their October meeting held in conjunction with the 2011 USBLN[®] Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

According to USBLN[®] Chair, Deb Russell, Corporate Manager, Outreach & Employee Services, Walgreens, "The USBLN[®] is fortunate to have Jill fill the Executive Director role in continued support of our vision to help businesses build workplaces, marketplaces and supply chains where people with disabilities can demonstrate their full potential and be respected for their talents, economic self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship."

Jill Houghton brings over 20 years of diverse leadership experience at the federal, state and local levels to advance the employment and economic self-sufficiency of all people with disabilities. Prior to joining the USBLN[®], Jill served as the Executive Director of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel from February 2005 until its legislative sunset in January, 2008. The bi-partisan Panel was comprised of twelve private citizens and was housed independently within the Social Security Administration in Washington D.C. The Panel's charge was to advise the President, Congress and the Commissioner of Social Security on the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program and issues related to work incentives programs, planning and assistance for individuals with disabilities.

Jill Houghton served as John D. Kemp's Deputy Executive Director and has played a key role in all USBLN[®] management and programmatic developments since April 2008. Jill's career has taken her across the country to serve in a variety of organizations, including working with Washington State businesses to found the Washington State Business Leadership Network where she served as the Executive Director from 1999 – 2003.

Jill Houghton, Executive Director, may be reached at Jilldh@bellsouth.net or (954) 461-4726.

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

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