



## USBLN<sup>®</sup> Announces the Appointment of Three *Ex Officio* Members to Board of Directors

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WASHINGTON, DC (April 21, 2011) - Today, the US Business Leadership Network<sup>®</sup> (USBLN<sup>®</sup>) announced its appointment of three *Ex Officio* members to their Board of Directors.

The three *Ex Officio* Board members are **Paul Fogle**, student, Penn State Harrisburg and Chair, USBLN<sup>®</sup> Student Advisory Council, **Tessah Latson**, Program Director, New Mexico Business Leadership Network and USBLN<sup>®</sup> BLN Affiliates Representative; and **John Wagner, MHA**, Senior Segment Director for the Senior Business Unit, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and Chair, USBLN<sup>®</sup> Corporate Advisory Board. These members will provide important representation of their respective USBLN<sup>®</sup> advisory groups, the Student Advisory Council, the BLN Affiliates, and the Corporate Advisory Board.

The USBLN<sup>®</sup> helps build workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are respected for their talents, while supporting the development and expansion of its BLN affiliates. The USBLN<sup>®</sup> recognizes and supports best practices in the employment and advancement of people with disabilities; the preparedness for work of youth and students with disabilities; marketing to consumers with disabilities; and contracting with vendors with disabilities through the development and certification of disability-owned businesses.

“We are pleased to welcome our *Ex Officio* Board members and greatly value their collective insight. I’m confident that Paul, Tessah and John will help the USBLN<sup>®</sup> build upon its many accomplishments and further enhance disability inclusion across the enterprise,” shared **Deb Russell**, USBLN<sup>®</sup> Board Chair and Manager, Outreach and Employee Services, Walgreens.

**Paul Fogle**, student, Penn State Harrisburg and Chair, USBLN<sup>®</sup> Student Advisory Council (SAC) is in the Master’s in Public Administration program at Penn State Harrisburg. In the past, Paul has been a consultant for transition initiatives on the local, state, and national levels. He has served on the Governing Boards of the Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network (as founding member) and the National Youth Leadership Network. Paul has also served on the Youth Advisory Committee to the National Council on Disability and the Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council. He completed his baccalaureate degree in Public Policy from Penn State Harrisburg in 2008. While on campus Paul was active in leadership organizations such as SGA and the University Faculty Senate. He currently serves as an Assistant Coach for the Penn State Harrisburg Men’s Basketball team. Paul currently resides in Lebanon, PA.

**Tessah Latson**, Program Director, New Mexico Business Leadership Network and USBLN<sup>®</sup> BLN Affiliates Representative, has been the Program Director of the NMBLN since June 2005. Her role within the organization includes strategic and fund development, communications and marketing, business and community

education. Much of her work is focused on facilitation and coalition building across sectors. Prior to the NMBLN, Tessah worked for 3 years as the NM Commission for the Blind's Community Relations Liaison and Employment Development Center Marketing Manager. As a Special Projects Consultant with the National Federation of the Blind in 2008, Tessah worked on the National Braille Literacy Campaign with NFB state affiliates, and developed strategic partnership and fundraising initiatives with the NFB Board of Directors and Program leadership to implement the Louis Braille Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act. Tessah holds a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Relations and Community Development from Lesley University, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

**John Wagner, MHA**, Senior Segment Director for the Senior Business Unit, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) and Chair, USBLN<sup>®</sup> Corporate Advisory Board (CAB), is accountable for the development and implementation of this important business segment's strategy and all performance management metrics for senior focused product portfolios. Prior to John recent transition to the Senior Business Unit, he served as a specialist in healthcare reform/product exchanges, consumer directed health products and product positioning, John has been with BCBSF since 1992 in progressive management roles in delivery systems/provider network management, provider reimbursement and negotiations, strategy development, Medicare, capability development, and product management and development. John is a graduate of the University of North Florida, where he obtained a Master of Health Administration and a Bachelor of Business Management. John also served as an adjunct professor for the University with classes focused in Health Care Administration, Marketing and Planning, and Managed Health Care/Insurance.

The USBLN<sup>®</sup> Board of Directors current members are: **Deb Russell**, Board Chair and Manager, Outreach and Employee Services, Walgreens; **Martha Artiles**, Board Vice-Chair and Global Chief Diversity Officer, Manpower Inc.; **Debra Ruh**, Board Secretary/Treasurer, CEO & Founder of TecAccess, Inc. and Chief Marketing Officer, SSB BART Group Inc.; **Beth Butler**, Director, Diversity & Inclusion Lowe's Companies, Inc.; **Frances West**, Director, IBM's Human Ability & Accessibility Center; **Kevin Bradley**, Director, Inclusion & Diversity, McDonald's Corporation; **Kevin Foster**, Director of Motorola's Quality Master Black Belt; **Marthalee Galeota**, Program Manager of Starbuck's Accessibility; **Michelle Maybaum**, Director, Employee Relations for Qualcomm, Inc.; **Michael Takemura**, Director, Hewlett-Packard's Accessibility & Aging Program Office; **Deborah Dagit**, Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President of Merck & Co. Inc.'s Diversity, Work Environment & University Relations; **Roy E. Flora**, Group President of Microtel Inns and Suites and Baymont Inn & Suites; **Lori Golden**, Inclusiveness Consultant and Lead of Ernst & Young's firm-sponsored inclusiveness initiative AccessAbilities; **Susan Palmer Mazrui**, Director of AT&T's Public Policy and **Ann Andreosatos**, Leader, Culture and Capability, North American Diversity & Inclusion Practice, Procter & Gamble.

For more information on the USBLN<sup>®</sup> Board of Directors, please visit <http://usbln.org/bod.html>.

### **About the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN<sup>®</sup>)**

The US Business Leadership Network<sup>®</sup> (USBLN<sup>®</sup>) 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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 business enterprises.

[www.usbln.org](http://www.usbln.org)

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