



## USBLN<sup>®</sup> Announces the Elections of its Student Advisory Council Leadership

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Contact: Anita Howard  
Phone: (800) 706-2710  
[anita@usbln.org](mailto:anita@usbln.org)

WASHINGTON, DC (February 14, 2011) - Today, the US Business Leadership Network<sup>®</sup> (USBLN<sup>®</sup>) announced its 2011 leadership for the US Business Leadership Network Student Advisory Council (SAC).

The Student Advisory Council members elected **Paul Fogle**, student, Penn State Harrisburg, to serve as Chair; **Jimmy Curran**, student, Temple University, to serve as Vice-Chair; and **Stephanie Hammerman**, student, Lynn University, to serve as Secretary.

The USBLN<sup>®</sup> is focused on embracing the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the labor force and marketplace; assists in career preparation for and employment of people with disabilities, improves customer experiences for people with disabilities, and promotes the certification and growth of disability-owned businesses. The national Student Advisory Council assists USBLN<sup>®</sup> Board members and staff by providing insight on employment barriers that students with disabilities face. They also create publications to assist businesses and students to ease the transition into internship opportunities and employment.

“On behalf of the US Business Leadership Network, we are happy to have such a dedicated group of students work with us, providing both guidance and direction as we create programs focusing on career development opportunities for students with disabilities. These initiatives encourage employers to hire students with disabilities in internship programs and then full-time employment once they graduate,” said Gary Goosman, Director of the TOWER™ Initiative at the USBLN<sup>®</sup>. “Advisory groups like the SAC are vital for us to continually drive the success of the core mission of the USBLN<sup>®</sup>.”

The USBLN<sup>®</sup> Student Advisory Council is comprised of: **Paul Fogle**, student, Penn State Harrisburg; **Jimmy Curran**, student, Temple University; **Stephanie Hammerman**, student, Lynn University; **Nate Finch**, student, University of Hartford; and **Daman Wandke**, student, Western Washington University.

**Paul Fogle, Chair**, 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 Middletown, PA.

**Jimmy Curran, Vice Chair**, is a senior Finance major in the Business Honors Program at Temple University with a minor in Spanish and Economics. Outside of the classroom he has participated in the Emerging Leaders Internship Program and the American Association of People with Disabilities Congressional Internship Program. While with the Emerging Leaders Program, Jimmy worked at the CIT Group in New York City on the Risk Management team of the Transportation Finance department. This past summer he interned in the Office of Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), providing support to the Legislative team by performing a myriad of tasks. Jimmy also serves on the Disability Mentoring Day Mentee Outreach Committee through the New York City Mayor's Office. In his free time he enjoys promoting the employment of people with disabilities, reading business/political publications, and managing a portfolio of financial options. Jimmy is currently seeking employment opportunities in financial services and public policy.

**Stephanie Hammerman, Secretary**, a Junior at Lynn University, Boca Raton FL, studying in the field of communications, majoring in Advertising and Public Relations. Hammerman was born with a mild case of Cerebral Palsy, and has a strong passion for disability advocacy and awareness. Over the past two years she has founded and coordinated a Disability Awareness Month Initiative on the university's campus and hopes that the experience will aide her to being a positive and influential member of the USBLN<sup>®</sup> Student Advisory Council.

**Nate Finch** is a sophomore in the Barney School of Business at the University of Hartford in Connecticut, currently pursuing an accounting major. Academically, Nate has a knack for math. It is his strongest and perhaps not surprisingly, favorite subject. People often describe him as a motivated and hard working individual with a positive attitude, who likes to see tasks through to completion. Outside the classroom, Nate regularly finds himself engaged with others doing community service work: working for a sustainable agriculture organization during high school, helping orient new students at his university and working at a summer camp for individuals with disabilities. In his spare time, he also likes to downhill ski, bike, fish, and play backgammon. Nate grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts with his parents and older brother.

**Daman Wandke** is a senior at Western Washington University (WWU) majoring in Business Administration/Management Information Systems. He is also working on a minor in Internet Resource Creation and Management. Daman's goal is to work in project management at an Information Technology (IT) company. He is the President of Access Web, providing IT accessibility and disability advocacy services. He also works as an IT Specialist remotely at the U.S. Department of Agriculture based out of Washington, DC, working on PDF accessibility and Section 508 Compliance. This past summer, Daman returned to Washington, DC, and interned in the Chief Information Office at NASA's Headquarters. Daman is also a disability advocate at the national and international levels focusing on IT accessibility and disability employment.

For more information on the Student Advisory Council and the TOWER™ Initiative, please visit <http://www.usbln.org/programs.html#tower>.

#### **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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