



## **Nominations Now Being Accepted for the 2012 USBLN<sup>®</sup> Annual Leadership Awards**

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WASHINGTON, DC (June 22, 2012) - The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN<sup>®</sup>) is pleased to announce the opening of the nomination process for their **2012 USBLN<sup>®</sup> Annual Leadership Awards**. The purpose of the 2012 USBLN<sup>®</sup> Annual Leadership Awards is to further the USBLN<sup>®</sup> mission of identifying leading disability workplace, market place and supply chain practices in use today. Award recipients demonstrate outstanding commitment to promoting disability diversity across their enterprises and clearly embody the highest ethical standards and values in the community.

“To more fully honor and recognize the proven practices and policies that demonstrate ongoing support for disability employment, marketing to customers with disabilities, and contracting with entrepreneurs with disabilities we have reviewed and refined our award categories this year. We are pleased to now accept nominations in the categories of Affiliate of the Year, Employer of the Year and Supplier Diversity Corporation of the Year for 2012,” shared **Jill Houghton**, Executive Director, USBLN<sup>®</sup>.

Nomination forms are available in Word document format via the links listed below for each category. The awards will recognize leaders in three categories including:

### **[USBLN<sup>®</sup> Affiliate of the Year](#)**

The outstanding BLN Affiliate of the Year is one that has demonstrated exemplary efforts in promoting the vision, mission and spirit of the USBLN<sup>®</sup>. As a result of this BLN Affiliate’s efforts, employers and their communities understand, utilize, and benefit from the valuable resources that people with disabilities present in the workplace, marketplace and supply chain.

### **[USBLN<sup>®</sup> Employer of the Year](#)**

The Employer of the Year award is presented to the company (small, medium or large) that has demonstrated exemplary policies, strategies and initiatives that have resulted in measurable results in the areas of disability inclusiveness in the workplace, marketplace and supply chain. Note: Employer shall mean all employers except non-profit service providers and government agencies.

### **[USBLN<sup>®</sup> Supplier Diversity Corporation of the Year](#)**

The Supplier Diversity Corporation award is presented to the employer that has demonstrated outstanding inclusion of disability-owned businesses in their corporate supplier diversity program.

**The deadline for nominee submissions is July 23, 2012 at 5:00 pm EDT.** Organizations are welcomed to self-nominate and may submit nominations for multiple categories for consideration; however, one form per category must be completed. Please submit nomination forms to: Jani Willis, USBLN<sup>®</sup> Corporate Relations Consultant, at [janimwillis@gmail.com](mailto:janimwillis@gmail.com). Note that late submissions will not be accepted.

Award recipients will be selected by committee in August and will be announced at the 2012 USBLN® 15th Annual Conference & Expo in Orlando, Florida on October 3 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld hotel. For more information or to register for the annual conference, visit: <http://www.usblnannualconference.org>.

**About the 2012 USBLN® 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Expo  
October 1-4 | Orlando, FL | Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld**

Be sure to join the US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) on October 1-4 for their 15th Annual Conference entitled, "**Disability Inclusion Driving Success in a Competitive Business Environment**" at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld by Marriott. This business to business conference, focused on disability inclusion in the workplace, marketplace and supply chain is the largest of its kind. Building on last year's highly successful conference, this year's event will deliver enhanced networking opportunities, offer exciting interactive sessions, and feature respected thought-leaders and industry luminaries. This conference brings corporate, government, disability-owned businesses and BLN affiliates together to create workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are fully included as professionals, customers and entrepreneurs. [www.usblnannualconference.org](http://www.usblnannualconference.org)

**About the US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®)**

The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) is a national non-profit, non-partisan business to business network promoting workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are included. The USBLN® serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN® Disability Supplier Diversity Program® (DSDP) is the nation's leading third party certification program for disability-owned businesses, including service-disabled veterans. [www.usbln.org](http://www.usbln.org)

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