



## **USBLN<sup>®</sup> Releases “The Disability Inclusion Gold Standard<sup>SM</sup> – A Roadmap to Full Inclusion Across the Enterprise” Publication as Exclusive Benefit to Member Companies**

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WASHINGTON, DC (February 25, 2013) – The US Business Leadership Network<sup>®</sup> (USBLN<sup>®</sup>) is pleased to announce an exclusive benefit for its business members, **“The Disability Inclusion Gold Standard<sup>SM</sup> - A Roadmap to Full Inclusion Across the Enterprise.”** This initiative was driven by the USBLN<sup>®</sup>’s Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) and fully supported by the USBLN<sup>®</sup> Board of Directors (BOD) and the Founding Members of the USBLN<sup>®</sup>’s Disability Supplier Diversity Program<sup>®</sup> (DSDP). During 2012, the members of the CAB, BOD and DSDP Founding Members developed a business friendly guide to identify goals and provide road maps for a company to use as it strives to reach the Gold Standard within seven (7) critical business areas, including measurements and reporting outcomes.

This document was designed as an internal tool to help member companies make progress toward an ultimate goal. It is neither a compliance tool nor a step-by-step cookbook, but a business-to-business manual to help guide progress toward full inclusion of people with disabilities across the enterprise.

According to USBLN<sup>®</sup> Executive Director, **Jill Houghton**, “Progressive companies strive to incorporate disability inclusion practices across the entire business enterprise—understanding that doing so positively impacts their bottom line.” Ms. Houghton further added that this document will be vital in the development of the Disability Equality Index<sup>SM</sup>, a benchmarking tool that is being created in collaboration with the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD.)

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

The US Business Leadership Network<sup>®</sup> (USBLN<sup>®</sup>) 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<sup>®</sup> serves as the collective voice of over 50 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN<sup>®</sup> Disability Supplier Diversity Program<sup>®</sup> (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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