



Corporate Disability Employment Summit Outlines Successful Disability Inclusion Strategies

*Releases Joint Report on Practices for Creating a Diverse and Inclusive
Workforce, Supply Chain and Marketplace through Disability Employment*

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WASHINGTON, DC (July 29, 2013) – The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) successfully hosted its second corporate disability summit on July 25th with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to highlight inclusion practices related to disability employment. The groups also released a joint [report](#) that outlines specific strategies for businesses to recruit and retain individuals with disabilities, creating a diverse workforce, supply chain and marketplace.

“In today’s global economy, it is critical that we foster a modern, competitive, and inclusive workforce” said **Thomas J. Donohue**, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber. “Leveraging the skills, talents, and experience of workers with disabilities is not only essential to our workforce competitiveness, but it’s also the right thing to do. Good inclusion practices enable workers with disabilities to thrive, and in turn, businesses benefit from the contributions of employees who are dedicated, hardworking, and productive.”

Many successful business owners and CEOs have overcome challenges related to building a diverse and inclusive workforce, overcoming hurdles with robust and creative practices. The summit highlighted some these proven strategies, acting as a guide for other companies aiming to do the same.

“The USBLN® is excited to be working with the Chamber on this meaningful report that will strengthen the ability of businesses to increase their inclusion of persons with disabilities across the business enterprise,” said **Jill Houghton**, USBLN® Executive Director. “We recognize that businesses learn best from their peers and we want to provide them the means to share their strategies for inclusion.”

The USBLN® and Chamber’s joint release, “[Leading Practices in Disability Inclusion](#),” highlights strategies that can be used by all businesses to create a more inclusive workplace, marketplace, and supply chain. The booklet outlines real-life examples that are important in helping businesses realize opportunities provided by disability employment, and the featured companies provide valuable insights on the success in all aspects of their business operating that have resulted from the inclusion of people with disabilities. The report also includes a tool to initiate and enhance disability-friendly corporate practices.

“We are leaving a lot of talent on the table,” Donohue continued. “The Chamber remains committed to educating the business community and raising awareness of this important issue. Many of the businesses we represent and work with have adopted creative inclusion practices, and their successful efforts are a model for other employers.”

Summit participants included Senator Tom Harkin; Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers; the Chamber’s Senior Vice President of Labor, Immigration, and Employee Benefits Randy Johnson, and a number of other policy experts and representatives from the business and disability communities.

The “Leading Practices on Disability Inclusion” report is available [here](#) on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce website.

About the US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®)

The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) is a national non-profit that helps business drive performance by leveraging disability inclusion in the workplace, supply chain, and marketplace. The USBLN® serves as the collective voice of over 50 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 businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. www.usbln.org

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