



## USBLN<sup>®</sup> Announces New Appointments to its Corporate Advisory Board

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WASHINGTON, DC (February 12, 2014) – Today, the US Business Leadership Network<sup>®</sup> (USBLN<sup>®</sup>) announced the appointment of four member companies to its Corporate Advisory Board (CAB.) The USBLN<sup>®</sup> Board of Directors at recent meetings approved Northrop Grumman Corporation, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Starbucks Coffee Company and WellPoint, Inc. for two-year terms on the CAB. Representing Northrop Grumman are **Robert Vetere**, Senior Workplace Accommodations Specialist and **Dan Ellerman**, Director, Diversity and Inclusion. The representatives from Novartis are **Dr. Richard Weitzman**, Medical Director, Drug Safety & Epidemiology and **Adrian Hawkins**, Senior Oncology Sales Specialist. Starbucks has named **Michael Ronan**, Regional Director of Channel Development, Latin America/Global Export to represent the company. WellPoint has named **Alicia Wallace**, Corporate Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, and **Merrill Friedman**, Advocacy Director, as its representatives.

The CAB provides a forum for employer representatives to discuss and define their collective needs related to including people with disabilities in the workplace, supply chain and marketplace along with identification of emerging trends in these fields. Its members provide strategic direction to USBLN<sup>®</sup> programs, ensuring a focus on relevant and realistic activities and goals. Additionally, the members contribute an awareness of the business environment, including reports on competitive activities, strategies, and directions to the Board and staff.

"We welcome and appreciate the support and expertise that each of these companies contributes to the USBLN<sup>®</sup>'s expanding programs and many new initiatives. The success of this business-to-business organization results from the pro-active participation of its member companies. We deeply value their support of full inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace, supply chain and marketplace," shared **Jill Houghton**, Executive Director, USBLN<sup>®</sup>.

For more information on the USBLN<sup>®</sup> Corporate Advisory Board, please visit [http://usbln.org/about-us\\_cab.html](http://usbln.org/about-us_cab.html).

### **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 that helps business drive performance by leveraging disability inclusion in the workplace, supply chain, and marketplace. The USBLN<sup>®</sup> serves as the collective voice of nearly 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 businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. [www.usbln.org](http://www.usbln.org)

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