



PBATS, USBLN[®] Partner in Disability Employment Initiative

Organizations to Promote Inclusion through Groundbreaking PBATS Program

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WASHINGTON, DC (January 21, 2014) – The Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society (PBATS) and The US Business Leadership Network[®] (USBLN[®]) announced today that they will be partnering in an effort to promote disability employment.

The USBLN[®] will be joining with PBATS in their groundbreaking “**Ability Transcends Challenges**” program (ATC).

PBATS and the USBLN[®] believe people with disabilities have an important role to play in America. Using illustrations from baseball, the “Ability Transcends Challenges” program (ATC) demonstrates that people with disabilities can be a significant engine in the life of our country, if given the opportunity.

Mark O’Neal, President of PBATS – an organization that primarily concerns itself with health issues – is extremely excited about the partnership and is delighted to be working with one of the premiere business related organizations in the United States.

“Using baseball’s tremendous platform, this program is designed to educate the American people about the role that people with disabilities have played throughout baseball’s history, while speaking to the important lessons of inclusion and the need to harness this valuable source of American manpower. Our ultimate goal is to do nothing less than change America’s perception about the value of people with disabilities, by demonstrating that truth using baseball, and partnering with the USBLN[®] will have great impact on our ability to do so,” O’Neal said.

Jill Houghton, Executive Director, USBLN[®] said, “Baseball has an absolutely striking and long history of giving players an opportunity at the highest level to show what they can do, rather than focusing what they cannot do. Our partnership with PBATS is especially exciting because nothing can promote the ‘can do’ spirit of people with disabilities better than the game of baseball.”

The USBLN[®] will play an important role in this partnership by promoting these messages of inclusion to businesses across the United States. In addition, the USBLN[®] is offering its member organizations an opportunity to be a part of the ATC program and help in this national initiative, while giving each business the chance to demonstrate their commitment to the employment of people with disabilities – all while having the opportunity to be a part of the historic game of baseball.

Keith Wiedenkiller, Chair, USBLN[®] said, “We know of no other sport that can surpass major league baseball’s disability inclusive history. The USBLN[®] Board and members are excited about the powerful message that this program will bring to the world on what people with disabilities can do.”

For more information regarding PBATS, the USBLN[®] and their partnership in conjunction with the ATC program, please visit – www.pbats.com or www.usbln.org.

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 nearly 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

About the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society (PBATS)

The mission of the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society (PBATS) is to serve as an educational resource for the Major League and Minor League Baseball athletic trainers. www.pbats.com

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