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Subject: DiversityPlus Magazine Honours 2013 Top 30 Champions of Diversity

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2013 Top 30 Champions of Diversity

DIVERSITYPLUS HONORS NATIONAL DIVERSITY LEADERS

SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY – Thirty (30) leaders in supplier diversity who represent organizations across the U.S. have been selected as DiversityPlus Magazine's 2013 Champions of Diversity award winners. The winners were announced on October 1st, 2013 and profiled in the September/October issue of DiversityPlus Magazine. Copies of the magazine will be distributed at the 2013 National Minority and Supplier Development Council Conference and Business Opportunity Fair held October 27-30, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. The Champions are highlighted for one year on www.diversityplus.com. The print and digital magazines have over 117,000 readers in 8 countries, including the United States.

The DiversityPlus team issued a call for nominations to more than 19,000 suppliers that are Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises. An independent editorial team reviewed the nominations and selected the most qualified individuals who have shown exceptional effort and success in advancing diversity in the nation's supply chains. They are also recognized for their innovative initiatives that help small and diverse businesses network, develop profitable and ongoing business relationships with corporate America, and establish successful joint ventures and alliances between small suppliers and corporate customers. The Champions have designed programs that showcase the creativity of diverse suppliers in meeting the needs of corporations in a post-recession economy.

As advocates for diversity, the Champions implemented a number of strategies that began with promoting companywide support. In building the business case for utilizing diverse suppliers on a domestic and global basis, the Champions have experienced enormous success in 2013 by increasing supplier participation rates and spend year over year. To keep program on target to meet goals, they developed benchmarking goals and metrics to measure progress and results, using hard data to prove the value proposition offered by supplier diversity initiatives.

The editorial team had their work cut out for them because each nominee was a diversity Champion in every sense of the word. The team spent considerable time doing extensive research and analysis of the nominee bios and responses to survey questions. The survey questions asked each person to identify their greatest challenges and successes as supplier diversity professionals. The editorial team narrowed the nominations to the 30 Champions based on their research and reviews. They selected the most outstanding nominees who demonstrate exemplary leadership and set the standards for supply chain inclusion in each of their industries.

Each year DiversityPlus staff finds the winnowing process more difficult because the leaders continually innovate and adapt to shifting economic conditions. As globalization advances and corporations undertake cost cutting strategies, the supplier diversity leaders had to hold firm in their advocacy efforts and build even stronger business cases to prevent cutbacks in their teams and initiatives. Without exception, each of the Champions succeeded in showing how supplier diversity flows to the bottom line, and senior managers have become their strongest supporters and advocates. It is our belief that greater inclusion begins one company at a time, and it is the Champions who are leading the way. They have proven that diverse suppliers enhance corporate competitiveness, innovation, the ability to meet customer needs, and profitability.

An important characteristic to note about the 2013 awardee companies is that the breadth of industries embracing Supplier Diversity as a competitive strategy is rapidly expanding. The industry leaders in supplier diversity like Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, Ernst & Young, and Office Depot are now joined by First Tier suppliers Flex-N-Gate and Continental Automotive Systems, companies with strong supplier diversity programs and still growing. The expansion of Supplier Diversity programs across industries is evidence of the success the Champions of Diversity have demonstrated in their own companies. Their efforts are supported and advanced by nonprofit organizations like the Chicago Minority Supplier Diversity Council, who has their own Champion of Diversity this year.

The 2013 DiversityPlus awards mark the seventh year the magazine has named Champions of Diversity. The nomination and award process is continued because giving supplier diversity leadership recognition inspires others to assume the mantle of diversity and inclusion. The highest honor the Champions of Diversity earn is when managers in other companies look at successful initiatives and decide to become advocates within their own organizations. The competition gets more intense each year, reflecting the adaptability and innovation of Supplier Diversity programs.

DiversityPlus is one of the nation's leading diversity magazines with readership in the United States, Brazil, South Africa, Canada, China, India, Australia and the U.K. The magazine is an important resource for corporations, diversity councils, and diversity leadership that are ready to initiate and strengthen their supplier diversity programs. DiversityPlus stays on the leading edge of diversity efforts by conducting interviews, researching industry trends and attending trade shows and conferences.

2013 Top 30 Champions of Diversity:

Walt Gore	Global Procurement Director of Supplier Diversity	Automatic Data Processing
Sheila Bright	Director, Global Supplier Diversity	AT&T

Louise Connell	Louise Connell Supplier Diversity Coordinator	BMW
Antonio Rivera	Global Procurement Hydraulics	Caterpillar, Inc.
Pamela Brailsford	Sr. Director of Supplier Diversity and Sustainability	Cintas
Sheila Morgan	President and CEO,ChicagoMSDC	Chicago MSDC
Michael Harris	Supplier Diversity Manager	Continental Automotive Systems
John Eley	Senior Manager, Supplier Diversity and Procurement Operations	DTE Energy
Theresa Harrison	Director of Global Supplier Diversity	Ernst & Young
Courtney Veeder	Supplier Diversity Manager	Flex-N-Gate
Marcella McCullough	Manager of Supplier Diversity Development	Ford Motor Company
Bridget Carter	Manager of Supplier Diversity	Caesars Entertainment
Angela Curley	Head of Corporate Diversity & Inclusion and Social Progress	Henkel
Berlon Hamilton	Supplier Diversity Lead	Hospira
Jackie LaJoie	Supplier Diversity Manager	Ingersoll Rand
Eliseo T. Rojas	Vice President of Global Sourcing & Chief Procurement Officer	Interpublic Group
Veronica Manuel-Gilbert	Director of Enterprise Supplier Diversity	Johnson & Johnson
Brenda Marshall	Senior Director, Global Diversity Solutions	Kelly Services
David A Hinson	National Director	Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)
Saunjah Powell-Pointer	Associate Director, Supplier Diversity	Merck
Corey Smith	Senior Director of Supplier Diversity and Strategic Sourcing	MLB
Lamont Robinson	Vice President of Supplier Diversity	Nielsen
Joy Wong	Corporate Vice President	New York Life Insurance Company (NYL)
Frantz Tiffeau	Senior Manager of Supply Chain Diversity	Office Depot
Dwain Carver	Associate Director, Corporate Supplier Diversity	Procter & Gamble
Wade Colclough	President and Chief Executive Officer	Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Delaware Minority Supplier Development Council (PA-NJ-DE msdc)
Kathleen Castore	Head of Supplier Diversity & Sustainability, NA Procurement	Sanofi
Marc Ensign	Director, Strategic Sourcing, Services/Indirect & Supplier Diversity	Sonoco
Jamie Crump	Director of Strategic Sourcing & Supplier Diversity	United Rentals
Sandra Nielsen	Manager of Global Supplier Relationships	Verizon

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