

For Immediate Release



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MARYLAND WORKS HONORS SEVEN RECIPIENTS AT THE 1ST ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT AWARDS LUNCHEON

Maryland Works, Inc. a statewide membership association that focuses on advocating the expansion of employment and economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment, is pleased to announce that it honored seven recipients at its **1st Annual Employment Awards Luncheon**. The Luncheon, Thursday, January 24, 2008 at the Maryland Senate Building, President's Conference Center, was keynoted by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown.

The Employment Awards honored individuals that have achieved their career goals regardless of having a disability, as well as workforce professionals, employers and public agencies that advocate and expand skills training and employment opportunities and training for individuals with disabilities or other barriers to employment.

More than 150 attendees were inspired by Lt. Governor Brown's keynote. The Lt. Governor noted that tremendous progress has been made in increasing the employment rate of people with disabilities "just two decades ago, 20% of adults with disabilities were employed". "Today we have achieved a 43% employment rate". That is an increase from 100,000 to 256,000 ". He went on to urge the audience to continue to increase that number to reach the same rate of employment as experienced by the general population and emphasized the Administration's commitment to achieving that goal. Lt. Governor Brown said that "today we celebrate our successes, recognize the achievements of the seven awards recipients, and re-energize ourselves for the work ahead".

Awards were presented by The Honorable Thomas Perez, Secretary, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, The Honorable Cathy Raggio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities and Robert Burns, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Rehabilitation Services. The program's MC was Maryland Works President and CEO Robert Hofmann. Awards were presented to the following individuals:

Categories and winners of the 1st Annual Employment Awards are:

Employee of the Year

Zaineb Fagge, Maryland Community Connection

Workforce Professional of the Year

Jeff Edwards, Humanim, Inc.

Employer of the Year

Lockheed Martin

Provider of the Year

Mosaic Community Services, Inc.

Public Policy Champion of the Year

The Honorable Thomas Mclain (Mac) Middleton

State Purchaser of the Year

Maryland Transit Authority

The sponsors for the event included, Primary sponsor The Arc of Baltimore and the other sponsors for the event were AscendOne, The Chimes, Humanim, The League for People with Disabilities and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce

If you would like additional information about any of the recipients, the event or Maryland Works, please contact Jay Stewart or Bob Hofmann. Following is a link of a sampling of some of the photographs of the event. Additional photos are available upon request.

http://www.govpics.maryland.gov/dsp_slideshow.cfm?CurrentPage=3&year=2008&month=01&day=24&date=20080124&event=\20080124-Brown%20Speaks%20Maryland%20Works%20Reception-mo\edited\&search=date