

I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Jhpiego on its 35th anniversary.●

2008 SLOAN AWARDS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I join with my colleague, Senator LINCOLN, to congratulate the 2008 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, which recognizes companies that have successfully used flexibility to meet both business and employee goals. Our offices coordinate and lead the Senate Staff Work Group on Workplace Flexibility, now in its 8th month. Since September 2008, our staff and that of at least 16 of our colleagues and as many as four different committees have gathered once a month to hear from research experts and listen to first-hand employer and employee experience on this important issue facing our Nation's workforce and families today. It is our goal to better define the appropriate role of government in this equation, moving from there to achieve bipartisan policies that help and do not frustrate families or hinder businesses. The Sloan Awards are an important component in the national shift toward employment policies that work better for both employers and employees as this Nation faces the reality of dual income households struggling to balance the multiple time commitments of children, disabled or aging family members and their jobs. The Sloan Awards are presented by the When Work Works initiative, which is a project of the Families and Work Institute in partnership with the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Twiga Foundation Inc. The When Work Works initiative is sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The companies receiving Sloan Awards are to be commended for their excellence in providing workplace flexibility practices which benefit both employees and employers. Achieving greater flexibility in the workplace, the goal of which is to maximize productivity while attracting the highest quality employees, is a key challenge facing American companies in the 21st century.

Businesses in the following 30 cities were eligible for recognition in the 2008 Sloan Awards: Atlanta, GA; Aurora, CO; Birmingham, AL; Boise, ID; Brockton, MA; Chandler, AZ; Charleston, SC; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Dayton, OH; Detroit, MI; Durham, NC; Houston, TX; Lexington, KY; Long Beach, CA; Long Island, NY; Louisville, KY; Melbourne-Palm Bay, FL; Milwaukee, WI; Morris County, NJ; Providence, RI; Richmond, VA; Rochester, MN; Salt Lake City, UT; San Francisco, CA; Savannah, GA; Seattle, WA; Spokane, WA; Washington, DC; and Winona, MN. The Chamber of Commerce in each city hosted an interactive business forum to share research on workplace flexibility

as an important component of workplace effectiveness. In these same communities, businesses applied and winners were selected for the Sloan Awards through a process that included employees' views as well as employer practices.

Together, we congratulate the 2008 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

In Atlanta, GA, the winners are Alston + Bird LLP; BDO Seidman, LLP; Cobb County Convention and Visitors Bureau; Ernst & Young LLP; KPMG LLP; Merrick & Company; North Highland; and Sprint.

In Aurora, CO, the winners are Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center; Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Medical Center of Aurora and Centennial Medical Plaza; and Merrick & Company.

In Birmingham, AL, the winners are Allstates Technical Services; AQAF; Barfield, Murphy, Shank, & Smith PC; Concept, Inc.; Deloitte; Ernst & Young LLP; ITAC Solutions; Birmingham Metropolitan YMCA; One Stop Environmental, LLC; Resources Global Professionals; and Sellers, Richardson, Holman & West, LLP.

In Boise, ID, the winners are American Geotechnics; Business Psychology Associates; Children's Home Society of Idaho; Givens Pursley LLP; LeMaster Daniels PLLC; Merrick & Rowley Accounting, LLC; and Trey McIntyre Project.

In Brockton, MA, the winner is KGA, Inc.

In Chandler, AZ, the winners are A & S Realty Specialists; Arizona Interactive Media Group; Arizona Weddings Magazine & Website; BCD Low Voltage Systems; The Chandler Chamber of Commerce; Clifton Gunderson LLP; Dava & Associates, Inc.; Henry & Horne, LLP; IBM; Intel; Johnson Bank; Keats, Connelly & Associates Inc.; MDI; Microchip Technology Inc.; New Horizons Independent Living Center; Omega Legal Systems, Inc.; Point B; Prescott Transit Authority; RIESTER; Salt River Materials Group; Western International University; WhitneyBell Perry Inc.; Wist Office Products; and WorldatWork.

In Charleston, SC, the winners are Booz Allen Hamilton LLP; Community Management Group; KFR Services, Inc.; LS3P Associates LTD.; Noisette Company, LLC; and Scientific Research Corporation.

In Chicago, IL, the winners are AzulaySeiden Law Group; BDO Seidman, LLP; Deloitte; Ernst and Young LLP; Frost, Rutenberg & Rothblatt, P.C.; IBM—Central Region; KPMG LLP; Microsoft Corporation—Midwest District; National Able Network; Perspectives, Ltd; Plante & Moran, PLLC; Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP; Shakespeare Squared; Teen Living Programs; True Partners Consulting; Turner Construction Company—Chicago Business Unit; Type A Learning Agency; and Vox, Inc.

In Dallas, TX, the winners are Aguirre Roden, Inc.; Amerisure Mutual Insurance Company; BDO Seidman, LLP; The Beck Group; Community Council of Greater Dallas; Deloitte; Grant Thornton LLP; KPMG LLP; Lee Hecht Harrison; McQueary Henry Bowles Troy, L.L.P.; State Farm Insurance Companies; Symbio Solutions, Inc.; and Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas.

In Dayton, OH, the winners are Barco, Inc.; Deloitte; and LJB Inc.

In Detroit, MI, the winners are Albert Kahn Family of Companies; Amerisure Mutual Insurance Company, The Children's Center of Wayne County; BDO Seidman, LLP; Detroit Regional Chamber; The Farbman Group; Image One; Lee Hecht Harrison; Menlo Innovations; Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration—MIOSHA; Mill Steel Company; and Peckham Inc.

In Durham, NC, the winners are The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants—AICPA; CrossComm, Inc.; Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative; McKinney; North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company; The Shodor Education Foundation; Skanska USA Building Inc.; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In Houston, TX, the winners are Continental Airlines; Deloitte; El Paso Corporation; Fulbright & Jaworski LLP; Hall Barnum Lucchesi Architects; Klotz Associates, Inc.; KPMG LLP; Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, P.C.—PKF Texas; Rice University; St. Luke's Episcopal Health System; The VIA Group LLC; University of Phoenix; and Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.

In Lexington, KY, the winners are Ashland Terrace Retirement Home; Benefit Insurance Marketing; JRA Architects; Lexmark International, Inc.; Potter & Company, LLP; Smiley Pete Publishing; United Way of the Bluegrass; and Woodward, Hobson & Fulton, LLP.

In Long Beach, CA, the winners are AES Alamitos, LLC; Healstone; HR NETWORK, Inc.; KPMG LLP; Long Beach Rescue Mission; and PeacePartners.

In Long Island, NY, the winners are Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Co., PC; The Alcott Group; Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.; Deloitte; KPMG LLP; and YES Community Counseling Center.

In Louisville, KY, the winners are A Speaker For You; Delta Dental of Kentucky, Inc.; Deming Malone Livesay & Ostroff CPAs, Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Inc.; KPMG LLP; McCauley, Nicholas & Company, LLC, CPAs; Metromojo.com; Prestige Healthcare; Pro-Liquitech International; Strothman & Company PSC; and Woodward, Hobson & Fulton, L.L.P.

In Melbourne-Palm Bay, FL, the winners are Brevard Workforce Development Board, Inc.; Craig Technologies; Hoyman Dobson; Kinberg & Associates,

LLC; Mercedes Homes; and Space Coast Early Intervention Center.

In Milwaukee, WI, the winners are Clifton Gunderson LLP; Deloitte; Ernst & Young LLP; Kahler Slater; KPMG LLP; Laughlin/Constable; Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce; Robert W. Baird & Co; Tushaus Computer Services, Inc.; Urban Ecology Center; and West Bend.

In Morris County, NJ, the winners are Berkeley College; Fein, Such, Kahn & Shepard, P.C.; Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey; KPMG LLP; Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP; Shade Tree Garage; and Solix Inc.

In Providence, RI, the winners are Embolden Design, Inc.; KPMG LLP; Lefkowitz, Garfinkel, Champi & De Rienzo PC; Narragansett Bay Commission; Quality Partners of Rhode Island; Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc; and Sansiveri, Kimball & McNamee LLP.

In Richmond, VA, the winners are Bon Secours Richmond Health System; Capital One, Hilb Rogal & Hobbs—HRH; Lee Hecht Harrison; Rink Management Services Corporation; and Virginia Commonwealth Health Systems—VCUHS.

In Rochester, MN, the winners are Cardinal of Minnesota; Custom Alarm/Custom Communications, Inc.; First Alliance Credit Union; IBM; RSM McGladrey, Inc. and McGladrey & Pullen, LLP; Southeast Service Cooperative; Stanley Jones & Associates, Inc.; Venture Computer Systems; and Winona State University—Rochester.

In Salt Lake City, UT, the winners are 1-800 CONTACTS; AAA Fair Credit Foundation; Cactus & Tropicals; Café Rio Mexican Grill; Cooper Roberts Simonsen Associates, Inc.; Employer Solutions Group; Governor's Office of Economic Development; Intermountain Financial Group/Mass Mutual; Intermountain Healthcare; McKinnon-Mulherin, Inc.; Redmond, Incorporated; SelectHealth; and Stayner, Bates & Jensen.

In San Francisco, CA, the winners are Fenwick & West LLP; KPMG LLP; Lee Hecht Harrison; Mother Jones Magazine/Foundation for National Progress; Presynct Technologies, Inc.; Sirna Therapeutics, Inc.; and Woodruff-Sawyer & Company.

In Savannah, GA, the winner is Environmental Services, Inc.

In Seattle, WA, the winners are BabyLegs LLC; Bader Martin, P.S.; BECU; Blue Gecko, Inc.; Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc.; Deloitte; EarthCorps; MarketFitz, Inc.; National CASA Association; NRG::Seattle; The Puget Sound Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology; Seattle Hospitality Group; Washington Health Foundation; WithinReach; and Worktank.

In Spokane, WA, the winners are Career Path Services; Humanix Staffing and Recruiting; and Inland Northwest Health Services.

In Washington, DC, the winners are Booz Allen Hamilton; Capital One; Clovis; Craig Technologies; Discovery

Communications, Inc.; KPMG LLP; List Innovative Solutions, Inc.; and Morgan Franklin Corporation.

In Winona, MN, the winners are Catholic Charities of the Diocese on Winona; Hiawatha Broadband Communications; Management Recruiters of Winona; Mediascope, Inc.; Sport & Spine Physical Therapy of Winona; Winona ORC Industries; and Winona Workforce Center.●

REMEMBERING BRIAN O'NEILL

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, it is with a very heavy heart that I rise today to inform the Senate of the recent passing of one of the most incredible civil servants it has been my honor to know. Sadly, Brian O'Neill, the National Park Service superintendent at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, passed away last week following complications from heart surgery.

To know Brian was to have known an extraordinary human being; someone who was completely devoted to his profession, his family, his friends, and to the national parks he so dearly loved.

Since 1986, when he became the superintendent at Golden Gate, Brian has been the inspiration and the driving force behind the success of one of the largest urban parks in the world. What set him apart, though, was not just a talent for the day-to-day management of a national park, but his grasp of the principal that a park is far more than a circle drawn on a map. He knew early on that, for a park to flourish, particularly an urban park, it needed the support of the local community, and that the best way to build that support was through the building of partnerships—partnerships that were the product of personal relationships.

Brian understood that a single park employee could only produce a set amount of work. But if you could turn that employee into an ambassador for the park, then others could be brought in to lighten the load and advance the cause. That is why Brian often said that what he really did was run a “friend-raising” business. And with well over 20,000 volunteers, I would say Brian's instincts were pretty good.

Too often in what passes for political discourse today the term “bureaucrat” is used as a pejorative. Anyone who would suggest such a meaning obviously never met Brian O'Neill. He was, by any definition and in the finest tradition of the civil service, the consummate bureaucrat; a skilled manager whose talents, whose energy, and whose sheer larger-than-life personality will be missed. I am proud to have had the privilege of knowing Brian O'Neill.

Mr. President, I am sure I speak for all my Senate colleagues in expressing my sincere condolences to Brian's friends, his coworkers, and especially the O'Neill family.●

TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wish today to take the opportunity to express my congratulations to the winners of the 2008–2009 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

In 1985, I joined with the Indiana Farm Bureau to sponsor an essay contest for 8th grade students in my home State. The purpose of this contest is to encourage young Hoosiers to recognize and appreciate the importance of Indiana agriculture in their lives and subsequently craft an essay responding to the assigned theme. The theme chosen for this year was “Working Our Way to Energy Independence.”

Along with my friends at the Indiana Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, I am pleased with the annual response to this contest and the quality of the essays received over the years. I applaud each of this year's participants on their thoughtful work and wish, especially, to highlight the submissions of the 2008–2009 contest winners—Lynnette Whitsitt of Huntingburg, IN, and Brandon Wells of Evansville, IN. I submit for the RECORD the complete text of Lynnette's and Brandon's respective essays. I am pleased, also, to include the names of the many district and county winners of the contest.

The winning essays are as follows:

UNTITLED

(By Lynnette Whitsitt)

Could you imagine a world where you flip on a light switch or press power on the TV and nothing happens? This will be our planet in the foreseeable future if we don't do anything about it. Many people believe that the future isn't their problem and that it's scientists' dilemma to solve, but it's not. If we don't do something about this energy crisis now, Earth will pay for it dearly in the future. We Hoosiers should do what we can, and contribute our available resources to produce renewable sources of power for our country. Without it, a global disaster is imminent.

Many alternate fuel sources need crops to manufacture them—especially corn and soybeans. Corn produces ethanol, while Biodiesel is made from soybeans. Portions of farmers' crops are sold to manufacturers that produce these energy sources. Organic waste materials, know as biomass, can now be broken down to become biogas. The waste materials used vary from crop remains to animal manure. Biogas can be transformed into diverse forms of energy, but of the renewable energy sources that generate electricity, biomass is most abundant. The conversion of waste materials to biogas is a purely organic procedure in which microorganisms break wastes down into methane. Hoosier farmers could also utilize farmland for wind farms, which will not only provide the farms with energy but also income from spare energy sold to power companies. While wind turbines would occupy land, it could still be used for its main intention, agriculture.

Farmers have been hugely affected by the energy crisis and can be part of the solution. By helping to make biodiesel, ethanol, biogas, and wind power Indiana farmers will greatly affect the future of energy. This major energy change will revolutionize rural towns, Indiana, and our nation as a whole.