

Cincinnati Business Incubator's "Emerge Awards"

*Fourth-Annual Event Recognized Individuals and Companies
Who Have Helped Cincinnati's Small Businesses Grow and Thrive*

More than 100 people attended the recent fourth-annual Cincinnati Business Incubator's (CBI) Emerge Awards. The luncheon and awards ceremony attracted small business owners, corporate leaders and government officials to the event at Cincinnati/Hamilton County Community Action Agency at Jordan Crossings on June 18. The keynote speaker for the event was Ohio Senator Eric Kearney.

The "Emerge Awards" recognize individuals and companies who have helped Cincinnati's small businesses grow and thrive. The awards honor individuals and small-business enterprises that have made their mark of excellence by supporting incubation services in the Cincinnati area. Seven awards were given to individuals, organizations and corporations that have supported CBI's efforts to create jobs and increase economic development in the Queen City.



Master of Ceremonies, Crystal Kendrick

"The CBI Emerge Awards were created in 2006 through the vision of former executive director, Wayne Hicks," said Tracey Hayes, CBI's assistant executive director. "The purpose of the Emerge Award is to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments of incubator companies, corporations and individuals whose efforts have fostered business excellence during the past year."

The 2009 CBI Emerge Award winners were:

- **Outstanding Volunteer** — National College Externship Program
- **Outstanding Strategic Partner** — Greater Cincinnati Urban League
- **Outstanding Corporate Sponsor** — Toyota Motors North America
- **Outstanding Alumni** — Onyx Termite & Pest Control
- **Outstanding Economic Development** — World Pac Paper
- **Outstanding Emerging Business of the Year** — Chenese Bean Makeup Artistry
- **Outstanding Shining Star** — Volta Tax Accounting Services

"Senator Eric Kearney delivered a phenomenal keynote speech highlighting the economic importance of small business as it relates to job creation, development, creativity and innovation," Ms. Hayes said. "A touching testimony was given by Richard Harris, P3 Secure, who expressed the value proposition the Cincinnati Business Incubator had provided by helping P3 Secure and other entrepreneurs be proactive in this increasingly competitive marketplace."

Strategic partners for the luncheon were PNC Bank, National College, Uptown Consortium, ProjDel, Procter & Gamble, Southwestern College of Business, Messer Construction, Toyota and Cincinnati Public Schools' Department of Supplier Diversity.

"Cincinnati Public Schools' Supplier Diversity has been a very active and valuable affiliate member of CBI," Ms. Hayes said. "CPS has provided CBI businesses with valuable information and training resources — especially construction-related businesses. More than a half dozen CBI business owners have graduated from the program that Procter & Gamble and CPS helped to establish — Allied Construction Industries' Cincinnati Construction Technical Support Center

Program. This program's business management training and technical assistance have helped the CBI businesses who attended win bids and expand their capacity."



CPS' Supplier Diversity Assistant Beverly Holland and Manager Pamela Mullins

CPS' Supplier Diversity Department's affiliate membership with CBI is a part of the department's ongoing outreach program led by CPS consultant Michael Allison, of Allison Asset Management.

"CPS' Supplier Diversity has been an affiliate member of the Cincinnati Business Incubator for several years now," said Pamela Mullins, CPS' manager of Supplier Diversity. "CBI is a great resource to connect us with small, minority- and women-owned companies who may be interested in doing business with the school district. Mr. Allison is our representative at CBI's monthly Lunch 'N' Learn meetings, and we invite all CBI businesses to attend our monthly advisory committee meetings."

Ms. Hayes described the whole event as "a joyous celebration with a large number of business owners and various corporations and business support agencies."

"I can't wait until next year to do it all over again," she said.

For more information on CPS' Supplier Diversity program, call (513) 363-0474; for CBI, call Tracey Hayes, (513) 362-2701.

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