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HR Leadership Awards of Greater Washington: WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The second annual gala for the HR Leadership Awards of Greater Washington was held June 3 at the Hilton McLean at Tysons Corner. Human resource leaders sustain and cultivate the infrastructure of today's private and public organizations, often overcoming remarkable challenges. The *HR Leadership Awards of Greater Washington* were created to recognize and celebrate the exemplary contributions of outstanding human resource leaders who serve as business strategists, change drivers and thought leaders in industry and government throughout the greater Washington, DC, area.

Bobbie Kilberg, Northern Virginia Technology Council president since 1998, was the keynote speaker. Kilberg manages the largest technology council in the nation with over 1,500 member companies employing more than 170,000 people. She spoke on this year's theme, *HR Leadership: The Competitive Edge*, noting that HR is the "soul" of an organization. **Bob Madigan, WTOP's Man About Town**, served as Master of Ceremonies at the Award's Gala.

The 2003 HR Leadership Award winners:

HR Professional Excellence: Large Commercial/For-Profit

Garry Griffiths, Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, AMS, Inc., Fairfax, VA
In less than a year, Griffiths has elevated human resources to a strategic role within AMS and positioned his company as an *Employer of Choice*. He created a corporate-wide balanced scorecard that ties employee goals to company results. He and his team of HR experts work side-by-side with the AMS business leadership to address and balance business and workforce needs.

▪ ***HR Professional Excellence: Small Commercial/For-Profit***

Karen L. Meyer-Cain, Vice President of Human Resources, Avendra, LLC, Rockville, MD
Meyer-Cain developed and implemented an Associate Satisfaction Initiative, building a culture that fosters trust; teamwork; work/life balance; and individual, as well as corporate, success.

▪ ***HR Professional Excellence: Government***

Dr. Brad S. Draeger, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Human Resources, Fairfax County Public Schools

Draeger led a transformation of HR business processes, resulting in significant improvements in the services and benefits offered employees. He also effectively positioned the school system to address the challenges of a greatly increased student population, a shortage of well-qualified teachers and principals, and new federal mandates.

▪ ***HR Professional Excellence: Non-Profit***

Dr. Amy Dufrane, Director of Human Resources, the Optical Society of America, Washington, DC
After integrating the Society's goals with Employer-of-Choice principles, Dufrane significantly improved internal HR services and staff retention. Benchmarking was successfully used to guide and track advances.

▪ ***Community Service/Corporate Social Responsibility*** – presented in honor of **Sr. Eymard Gallagher, RSHM**, former president of Marymount University

Mosetta Blackmon, Director of Human Resources, Mitretek Systems, Inc., Falls Church, VA
Blackmon has fostered a Mitretek culture that blends corporate social responsibility, employee diversity and inclusion, and work/life balance. Through her leadership, Mitretek developed a strong partnership with Kilmer Middle School. Employees provide tutoring and science competition judging; Mitretek donated a weather station, sponsors teams, and more. The company is an active community partner in many other ways, including its Giving Campaign, Toys for Tots, Daffodil Days for the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army Coat Drive, Groundhog Job Shadow Day, and a partnership with the Wolftrap Foundation.

▪ ***Ethics***– presented in honor of **Dr. J.P. (Jack) London**, chairman, president, and CEO of CACI International Inc

In presenting the award, Dr. London pointed out, “Ethics has a positive effect on the bottom line.” He asserted, “Fair play makes corporate America work!”

Thomas Jefferson, Vice President of Human Resources, Comcast Communications, Inc., Manassas, VA
Incorporating ethics in employee training and evaluation, Jefferson has helped Comcast stay “true to the highest standards of honesty, fairness, and integrity.” He launched the annual Touchstone Awards, which recognize a top leader, supervisor, and employee for exemplary ethical conduct. A spotlight is shone on ethics for all employees.

In addition to recognizing and honoring exemplary leaders who have made significant contributions to the human resources profession in the past year, the HR Leadership Awards program also supports *future* HR leaders with three, annual \$3,000 scholarships for study in an HR-related degree program at a college or university in the metropolitan area.

The 2003 HR Leadership Scholars:

- **Eduardo Sanabia**, a Marymount University graduate student working on a master’s in Human Performance Systems and a certificate in Organization Development. Sanabia is lead director of Human Resources for the Northern Virginia Cluster, Westfields Marriott Hotel, Chantilly.
- **Lisa Schillo**, an MBA student at The George Washington University. Schillo is an intern at Ernst & Young, LLP
- **Daniel Shaul**, a Human Resource Development doctoral candidate at The George Washington University. Shaul is a client relations specialist at Training Resources Group, Inc., in Alexandria, VA.

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