

US Business Leadership Tapped by Labor's Office of Disability Employment for Strategic Alliance to Promote Employment of Americans with Disabilities

WASHINGTON, DC (September 24, 2008) - The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) today announced that it entered into a Strategic Alliance with the U.S Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) to promote employment of people with disabilities nationwide. The USBLN® is only the third organization to receive this prestigious honor, along side the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and CVS/Caremark.

"We are honored and humbled by ODEP's recognition of the good work being done by the US Business Leadership Network, its 54 BLN affiliates, and corporate members," stated **John D. Kemp**, executive director and general counsel of the USBLN®. "Our alliance will allow our organization to further discuss how organizational structures, values, policies, and day-to-day practices affect all aspects of the employment of people with disabilities - including recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion."

On September 12th, Kemp signed the alliance agreement with **ODEP Assistant Secretary Neil Romano**. According to ODEP this collaboration will provide USBLN® members and other employers with information, guidance and access to resources that will help them to recruit, hire and advance workers with disabilities.



Through such alliances, ODEP partners with organizations to develop model policies, programs and strategies, as well as forge new channels for training, education and outreach. The agency's Alliance Initiative is open to businesses, trade and professional associations, labor unions, educational institutions, government agencies at all levels and others. An alliance directive available at www.dol.gov/odep provides guidelines and criteria for alliance partnerships.

"The USBLN looks forward to advancing disability employment strategies that focus on talent, and our new alliance with ODEP further strengthens our commitment," summarized **Katherine McCary**, Vice-President of SunTrust Bank and Chair of the USBLN® board of directors.

The USBLN® is the only national business organization currently representing BLN chapters in 32 states - including the District of Columbia - and more than 5000 employers using a 'business to business' strategy to promote the business imperative of including people with disabilities in the workforce and marketplace.

For additional information about the USBLN® and the USBLN-ODEP Strategic Alliance, please contact John D. Kemp by phone at 202-466-6550 or email at john.kemp@ppsv.com.