



Indianapolis
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

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Mayor Ballard Recognizes Local Businesses and Organizations with the 12th Annual Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today hosted the 12th Annual Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards honoring businesses and organizations for their contributions to diversity. The Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards recognizes local businesses that encourage, embrace, and celebrate differences that foster a culture of diversity and inclusiveness.

“Over the past five years, the City of Indianapolis has made unprecedented strides at building a culture of inclusiveness and opportunity for women and minorities, as well as for veterans and individuals with disabilities,” said Mayor Ballard. “Every day, our city celebrates diversity – diversity of race, gender, ability, heritage and culture. More than that, we celebrate the opportunity that comes from diversity, and that from our differences come strength, creativity and growth.”

Recognition for the Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards is based on stellar performance in one or all of the following areas: Workforce Diversity, Development, Community Relations, and Leadership. Below is a list of the award recipients and a brief description of their accomplishments.

Development in Diversity Award

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in providing opportunities for diversity education and communication within the organization.

- **Award Recipient: The Indianapolis Foundation (CICF)**

Founded in 1916, The Indianapolis Foundation was among the first community foundations in the United States, and in 1997 established a partnership with the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF). Today they are transforming lives of Indianapolis residents through their charitable giving and providing leadership for a wide variety of community needs. CICF recognized that provisions had to be made for professional training and career development of all of their employees by embracing diversity throughout the organization and insisting upon a culture that fosters inclusion, transparency, and participation.

Community Relations Award

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in promoting activities that encourage and support diversity in the community.

- **Award Recipient: Mezzetta, Inc.**

The cornerstone of Mezzetta's business philosophy is deeply rooted in its eagerness to include other minority-, woman- and veteran-business enterprises (M/W/VBE) in their business ventures. They continue to strengthen this passion by directing their energies toward building relationships with M/W/VBE businesses that may not yet have had the same opportunities. Mezzetta has given back to the community generously by establishing scholarship funds, sponsoring many charitable organizations, fostering and supporting the professional growth of students, and employees. Mezzetta continuously supports local community developments and outreach centers by remaining committed to building relationships in the community.

Leadership in Diversity Award

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in implementing a vision that supports diversity strategies throughout the organization.

- **Award Recipient: The Indianapolis Public Library**

The Indianapolis Public Library has a long, rich history of recognizing and responding to cultural change. Its mission and vision is to create an agile infrastructure while achieving and sustaining excellence in diverse urban communities. The Library's resources, programs, and services continually align with the needs, priorities, and aspirations of the community. The Indianapolis Library initiated a significant number of free events, exhibits, workshops, and reading programs and has set the standard for promoting excellent learning opportunities and professional development. By reviewing a formal strategy every five years for the development of the Library's future, they have taken a proactive approach to our ever-changing population.

Workforce Diversity Award

This award is presented to a company or organization that has made great strides in the diversity representation in the workplace.

- **Award Recipient: LCP Transportation, LLC**

LCP Transportation's recruitment process strives to recognize and be open to and seek opportunities to hire minorities and individuals with disabilities. They do not consider this as just a program, but how they do business. LCP seeks to have diversity in the workplace that exceeds all state and local goals. Currently, LCP Transportation's workforce is 66 percent minority with six different nationalities represented. LCP understands the need to be inclusive and represents a work environment and culture that is rich in diversity.

Sam H. Jones Award

This special award, which represents the "Best of the Best," is named in honor of the first president of the Indianapolis Urban League, a tireless advocate for peace, justice, and understanding in Indianapolis. This award recognizes a business or organization with the strongest performance in all four categories.

- **Award Recipient: KeyBank**

KeyBank defines diversity as understanding and valuing differences, while drawing on similarities to achieve a common goal. KeyBank continually develops a workforce and ways of doing business that reflect the diversity of its customers and communities. They do this by recruiting and developing top

talent that blends participation of minorities and women into the management of their business. Economic inclusion also is a part of KeyBank's overall diversity strategy. They are expanding mutually beneficial business relationships with minority and women-owned suppliers, which enables KeyBank to deliver exceptional accounts and services to our clients. It also builds the economic wealth of the communities they serve by providing open opportunities and fair competition.

Distinguished Veteran Service Award

This special award honors and celebrates an individual who has been actively engaged in serving his country. This award is given in honor of a distinguished veteran who has continually served our country selflessly and continues to inspire others to a life of service.

- **Award Recipient: Jesus Quintana, Jr.**

Jesus Quintana, Jr., served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967-69. In 1968, Quintana lost both his legs after walking into a booby trap during a combat mission. Even though the loss of both his legs impacted his life dramatically, Quintana says it's not what he lost but what he found that gave him a sense of fulfillment and belonging. Fueled by that sense of fulfillment, Quintana continues to connect and assist veterans groups and causes across Indianapolis and our nation. Quintana helped launch the nation's first American Legion-sanctioned group for Vietnam-era veterans and also joined the Marine Corps League. Since 1987, he has been a volunteer at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis assisting veterans with questions on benefits and services. He also helps with activities, such as picnics and archery programs for disabled veterans and simply to be there as a friend and someone to listen. Quintana has earned three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

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