



COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

AUGUST 2004

CommCorp Recognizes Partners' Achievements

CommCorp held its Seventh Annual Excellence in Partnership Awards on June 24, to recognize the achievements of eleven people/organizations that have done extraordinary work over the past year.



Bill Ward

The first award of the day was given to **Bill Ward**, Executive Director of the Hampden County Regional Employment Board since 1980. Bill received the Excellence in Workforce Development Award, and spoke eloquently about how the work done by the workforce development community can, and should, provide opportunities for people to better their own lives and become self-sufficient.

The Dr. Stanley Z. Koplik Commitment to Learning Award was presented to **Year Up**, for their work providing urban youth with hands-on skill development, college credits and paid corporate internships. Gerald Chertavian, Founder and CEO of Year Up received the award on behalf of the organization, and took the opportunity to recognize members of his own staff that have committed themselves to this program.



Gerald Chertavian

Peter Pan Bus Company received the Business Partnership Award for their support and commitment to literacy in their community. Bob Schwarz, Executive Vice President for Communications spoke about the 21,000 sq. foot family literacy center that Peter Pan Bus Lines has committed to building in Holyoke, and the literacy center that will be created in Springfield.



Bob Schwarz



Julie Salois

A second Business Partnership Award went to **Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers**. The Merrimack area child care centers received Workforce Training Fund grants that evolved into the Leadership and Literacy Foundation, a non-profit offering training and workshops in a variety of subjects.

Julie Salois, Principal Opportunity Developer for Little Sprouts accepted the award.

Carol Kolenik, Director of the **Harvard Bridge to Learning and Literacy** accepted a Business Partnership Award. Carol created the program in 1999, which has since become a model for other



Carol Kolenik

(continued on page 2)

CommCorp Recognizes Partners' Achievements

(continued from page 1)

universities. The worker education program for Harvard University employees provides skills employees need in their current positions and helps students get better jobs.

The Excellence in Research and Evaluation Award was presented to **Andy Sum**, Professor of Economics at Northeastern University and the Director of the Center for Labor Market Studies. Involved with employment and training policymaking, planning and evaluation at the state, local and national level for nearly 30 years, Andy spoke about the importance of investing in employment and training programs.



Andy Sum



Denise Washington

Denise Washington received the Ann Wheeler Commitment to Education Award for her work with the Literacy Works Program in Hampden County. As a literacy entrepreneur, she has dramatically expanded partnerships, leveraged new resources, and developed a number of different initiatives impacting literacy for youth and adults.

The Hubie Jones Commonwealth Community Service Award this year went to **Andrea Silbert**, former Chief Executive Officer and Founder of the Center for Women and Enterprise (CWE). Through Andrea's leadership, this economic development organization has served over 7,500 women from more than 140 cities and towns, providing comprehensive business and technical assistance to women



Sheila Murphy

entrepreneurs since its inception in 1995. Sheila Murphy of CWE accepted the award on Andrea's behalf.

This year's Kristie Deprete Excellence in Public Service Award was presented to **Carolyn Blanks**, Vice President of Labor and Workforce Development for the Massachusetts Extended Care Federation. Carolyn advocates for the long term care workforce as a member of the state Workforce Investment Board, the Workforce Development Committee of the Boston PIC, and the advisory boards for both the Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative and the Nursing Career Ladder Initiative.



Carolyn Blanks



Janalis Martinez

Janalis Martinez received the Ann Wheeler Commitment to Education Award for her dedication and hard work over the past two years in the Diploma Plus Program, attending classes at El Centro del Cardenal. She completed a Community Action Project at the Au Cho Daycare Center, working with Vietnamese children, while enrolled at Bunker Hill Community College and interning at Boston Connects.

The final award of the day, the Dr. Stanley Z. Koplik Commitment to Learning Award, went to **Darlene Lanier-Grimes**. Although unable to attend the ceremony, Darlene was honored for her achievement as a participant in both the Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative and the Nursing Career Ladder Initiative. She has committed herself to moving up the career ladder and continues to work toward her goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

Commonwealth Corporation is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to persons with disabilities. (617) 727-8158; TDD/TTY (800) 439-2370; 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129

Mitt Romney, Governor; Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor; Jane C. Edmonds, Director, Mass. DWD; Jonathan Raymond, President, CommCorp