Presenting the 2013 CEO Leadership in Action Award

Recognizing CEOs Who Fully Support Their Organizations’ Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

It gives us great pleasure to present the Profiles in Diversity Journal 2013 CEO Leadership in Action Award to the organizations featured in the pages that follow.

We honor them because their personal, hands-on involvement in diversity sends an unequivocal message about the importance of diversity and inclusion at these companies and organizations. Their work sets a powerful example in the workplace and in the communities in which they live and do business. We especially hope that all the employees at these firms take pride in the diversity leadership shown by the CEO.

Our CEOs answered a variety of questions, including their company’s diversity efforts over the past year and how CEOs can help the economy recover while maintaining an emphasis on diversity and inclusion.

Let this award honor their Leadership in Action. Congratulations to all!
The growing body of research and literature on “diversity” indicates that the ability to work effectively in a diverse workforce is critical to being prepared for jobs in our innovation and knowledge-based twenty-first century economy. As president for nearly ten years, I have seen firsthand how a diverse student, staff, and faculty population is critical to providing a quality educational experience for our students, whom we hope will leave Wheelock prepared for success in today’s increasingly global society. In July 2012, we learned that the United States fell again in global rankings of our percentage of young adults earning a college degree. Our country is now ranked sixteenth in the world. The number of college graduates must more than double in order to achieve President Barack Obama’s goal of reclaiming world leadership in college graduation rates by 2020. This goal cannot be achieved without an increase in the diversity of students attending college and without investments in education. There also must be more intentional workforce preparation to increase our citizens’ skills and abilities to match the new knowledge economy.

This year, Wheelock celebrates its 125th Anniversary of living our mission to improve the lives of children and families. We strive to build an educational community that provides a challenging and nurturing intellectual environment built on a curriculum and pedagogy dedicated to diversity, social justice, and equality. We understand that a respect for human diversity and a genuine appreciation of how our many commonalities enrich our institutional mission and work are the best tools for our students as they graduate and make their contributions to society.

In the past seven years, we have made significant progress in our commitment to diversity. Today, 23 percent of all Wheelock undergraduate students are students of color and 32 percent of the 2014 class are students of color, with nearly 52 percent of this class being first in their families to attend college. I am most proud that our school has been recognized as having the most diverse faculty and staff of any institution in Boston, with nearly 30 percent of our faculty being African American, Latino, and Asian.

The United States is fast becoming a global, multilingual society, requiring intentional strategies for the preparation of the future workforce and leaders across all sectors. Our proud legacy of a commitment to diversity, in all aspects of the college community, is a role model for institutions across the country.  

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Jackie Jenkins-Scott
President
Wheelock College