

MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES ARE OFTEN SMALL BUSINESSES

THE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC INCLUSION HONORS "BEST IN CLASS"

BY ► AMANDA MARKO

Through the Commission on Economic Inclusion, a program of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, large employers demonstrate their commitment to making the region's diversity a source of economic strength.

Lloyd Trotter, GE vice chairman and president and CEO of GE Industrial was the keynote speaker at the Commission's 2007 Annual Meeting. "I applaud the work being done by the Commission on Economic Inclusion," he said. "With workforce diversity comes the power of broad thinking and breakthrough ideas—the kinds of things that create a productive culture and a successful global enterprise."

The Commission recently recognized

eight of its member companies as "Best in Class" for their progress in building and maintaining diverse organizations.

The employers, honored at the Commission's Annual Meeting, were selected based on preliminary results of the 2006 Greater Cleveland Employers Survey on Diversity, as well as follow-up inquiries. Two organizations—one for profit and one nonprofit/government organization—were selected in each of four categories.

The 2006 Best-in-Class organizations are: ShoreBank and Kaiser Permanente for board diversity; Fifth Third Bank, Northeast Ohio and NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field for senior staff diversity; Time Warner

Cable of Northeast Ohio and Cleveland State University for workforce diversity; and Eaton Corporation and Cleveland Clinic for supplier diversity.

Helping minority contractors succeed is a positive for the region's economy because they employ other minorities. They also often provide jobs in neighborhoods with low employment rates. The Commission on Economic Inclusion seeks to build these types of businesses in Cleveland, and it is working to increase minority participation in construction projects and in the regional economy. <<



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