



Recognizing Today's Role Models . . . Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders . . .

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2009

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**FOUR OF NEW JERSEY'S FINEST LEADERS TO BE INDUCTED
INTO THE NEW JERSEY BUSINESS HALL OF FAME™ WITH DR. RANDAL PINKETT AS THE
EVENING'S KEYNOTE
SPONSORED BY VERIZON**

(Newark, NJ) February 2009– Christine LaCroix, the New Jersey Business Hall of Fame™ (NJBHOF) Event Chair, member of the JANJ State Board of Directors, and Partner with Deloitte & Touche, is proud to announce the four outstanding individuals who will be inducted into the 2009 New Jersey Business Hall of Fame on the evening of April 30, 2009 at The Mezzanine of 744 Broad Street, Newark, NJ.

The 2009 Laureates are:

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| • Anne Evans Estabrook, CEO | Elberon Development Co. |
| • Carlos Dominguez, Sr. Vice President | Cisco Systems, Inc. |
| • Kurus Elavia, CEO | Gateway Group One |
| • The Honorable Nina Mitchell Wells | |

This stellar group of leaders will be presented awards of recognition and introduced by some of Newark's finest fifth graders who will be paired with someone significant in the life of each honoree. Dr. Randal Pinkett, Founder, Chairman and CEO of BCT Partners and Winner of Season 4 'The Apprentice', will be the evening's emcee and address the audience of 400 with keynote remarks stressing the importance of role models and the profound impact financial literacy education can have on our future economy. For Laureate and Keynote bios, contact dschwartz@ja-nj.org.

The NJBHOF, through a unique partnership comprised of JANJ, The Star-Ledger and the New Jersey Business Industry Association, is the premier platform for recognizing the ultimate role models to today's youth. A Laureate induction into the New Jersey Business Hall of Fame is a lifetime achievement award for individuals who have made a significant, positive impact on New Jersey through either the private sector economy or as an advocate of business in the public policy, government, or education sectors. Inductees have consistently demonstrated throughout their professional lives:

- Business excellence
- Visionary, innovative leadership
- Community involvement
- High ethical standards

Through these accomplishments, Laureates serve as role models for the next generation of leaders, many of whom are currently Junior Achievement students.

Laureates are selected by a committee comprised of leadership from the three partnering organizations as well as NJBHOF event chairs and past honorees. Honorees in 2008 were: Elizabeth G. Christopherson, former Executive Director New Jersey Network (NJN); Anthony G. Dickson, former President and CEO, NJM Insurance Group; and Michael J. Valentino, former President and CFO, Adams Respiratory Therapeutics. The 2007 group included Pamela Craig, CFO of Accenture; Kurt Landgraf, President and CEO of ETS; and Paul M. Pantozzi, Chairman and CEO of The Provident Bank. To learn more about these and other past honorees and the event, visit www.janj.org.

Verizon, for the third successive year, will be sponsoring this extraordinary affair. In addition to the lead sponsor, other supporters include: Accenture, Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company, ATC, BNY Mellon, Cogswell Realty Group, Deloitte, HSBC Insurance-North America, Lockheed Martin and PSEG. Proceeds from the event will help support JA's much needed and requested financial literacy education programs for underserved, disadvantaged youth in NJ.

About Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement's (JA) mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, JA provides in-school and after-school programs for students in grades K-12. JA offers work readiness programs that focus on seven key content areas: business, citizenship, economics, entrepreneurship, ethics/character, financial literacy, and career development. Today JA Worldwide™ reaches over 9,300,000 students worldwide in 100 countries. For more information, visit www.ja.org.

This year, Junior Achievement of New Jersey, a member of JA Worldwide™, will reach approximately 32,000 students in the Garden State. Since the merger in 2002 of the four Junior Achievement entities in New Jersey, JANJ now operates as a statewide 501(c) 3 organization with a governing State Board of Directors and three District Boards that help support both fundraising and program efforts in the southern, central, and northern parts of New Jersey.

About Verizon-The Title Sponsor of the NJBHOF

Verizon Communications Inc., headquartered in New York, is a leader in delivering broadband and other wireline and wireless communication innovations to mass market, business, government and wholesale customers. Verizon Wireless operates America's most reliable wireless network, serving more than 80 million customers nationwide. Verizon's Wireline operations include Verizon Business, which delivers innovative and seamless business solutions to customers around the world, and Verizon Telecom, which brings customers the benefits of converged communications, information and entertainment services over the nation's most advanced fiber-optic network. A Dow 30 company, Verizon employs a diverse workforce of nearly 224,000 and last year generated consolidated operating revenues of more than \$97 billion. For more information, visit www.verizon.com.

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Don't forget that the New Jersey Business Hall Fame event is on April 30th! For more information visit www.janj.org.