

NEWS

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18TH ANNUAL CAREERFOCUS EAGLE AWARDS GALA HONORS TOP RANKING NATIONAL EXECUTIVES

Honorees Receive One of Corporate America's Highest Accolades in Leadership Achievement

OVERLAND PARK, KAN.: On Friday, November 12, 2010, the National Eagle Leadership Institute® and *CareerFOCUS* Magazine presented the 18th Annual *CareerFOCUS* Eagle Awards™ Gala at The InterContinental Hotel at The Plaza in Kansas City. The event recognized top ranking national corporate executives that exemplify and inspire leadership in business and community.

To recognize the award winners' driving spirit and commitment, this year's theme, *LEAD WHAT MATTERS*, set the stage as 10 corporations recognized men and women of color (see list below) who contribute to their company's success. This year's class joins a network of nearly 300 executives who have received the Eagle Award to date.

"This year's recipients have had to prove their courage, decisiveness and tenacity more than ever before, due to the varied challenges spurred by the state of our nation," said Georgia L. Clark, founder and president of the National Eagle Leadership Institute. "We are honored to place the spotlight on this inspiring group of executives who have made a commitment to setting a higher standard of leadership."

The *CareerFOCUS* Eagle Award™ was launched by *CareerFOCUS* Magazine™ in 1993 to recognize exceptional leaders within corporate America who excel in both corporate and community leadership. In 1995, *CareerFOCUS* established the National Eagle Leadership Institute® (NELI) to encourage corporate leadership development and support efforts to recognize, recruit and retain culturally diverse executives.

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The 18th Annual CareerFOCUS Eagle Awards™ Gala recognized the following honorees:

Debby Ballard, director of Community Affairs, Sprint; Guillermo Diaz, Jr., vice president of Information Technology, Cisco; Patricia Elizondo, senior vice president of Global Sales, Xerox; Javier Evans, vice president and senior relationship manager, HSBC Bank, U.S.A.; Andrea D. Hendricks, Ph.D., senior vice president of Diversity and Corporate Development, UMB Financial; Davida Nelums, program director, Tyco/ADT Security; Anthony “Tony” E. Santiago, vice president and chief procurement office, WellPoint; Mina F. Stewart, vice president, Verizon; Cyril Turner, vice president of Global Services, Delta Air Lines; Cynthia Hardy Young, president of Encompass Insurance and vice president of Allstate.

A selection panel comprised of alumni Eagle Award winners evaluated this year’s winners.

Along with receiving the Eagle Award on November 12, *CareerFOCUS* Magazine featured all of this year’s winners and their nominating companies in the November/December 2010 edition.

About NELI CareerFOCUS Eagle Awards:

Eagle Award recipients are generally nominated by the corporate chairman, president, or CEO—demonstrating the value of the nominee’s leadership to the overall success of the company. Receiving the *CareerFOCUS* Eagle Award is both a privilege and a responsibility. Eagle Award winners accept a two-year appointment to NELI’s Eagle Roundtable Advisory Council through which they are instantly connected to a national network of leaders—all of whom are past Eagle Award recipients. In an effort to help build the next generation of leaders, Eagle Award winners become advisors to NELI’s Corporate Bound Academy™ Leadership Challenge where they inform, influence and inspire college students poised for corporate leadership.

About NELI: The National Eagle Leadership Institute® (NELI) is a premier leadership development network for culturally diverse professionals and college students. NELI was launched in 1995 in response to corporate America’s increasing focus on leadership and diversity in the workplace. The Institute’s programs help recognize, recruit, and retain professionals who set a higher standard of leadership. **Our Mission is to Help You Lead.**

About CareerFOCUS Magazine: CareerFOCUS Magazine launched The Eagle Awards in 1993 to recognize professionals like those who grace its pages—men and women who lead with extraordinary results but whose contributions rarely receive national praise. In 1995, *CareerFOCUS* established the National Eagle Leadership Institute to support the recognition, recruitment and retention of culturally diverse executives.

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Media Advisory:

To obtain more information about the *CareerFOCUS* Eagle Awards Gala visit www.NELI.net. To learn more about this year’s Leadership Summit and Executive Leadership Exchange, visit www.NELILeadershipSummit.net or contact Jennifer Wolf at jjwolf@neli.net or Michelle Paige at nmpaige@neli.net.