



2022 Excellence in Supplier Diversity Award Winners

May 12, 2022 Awards Gala Honors Entrepreneurs and Leaders in Corporate Procurement

OAKLAND, Calif., May 12 -- The Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC), a local non-profit dedicated to promoting minority-owned businesses, announced the winners of its 2022 Excellence in Supplier Diversity Awards on May 12, 2022 at The Lake Chalet Seafood Bar & Grill in Oakland, CA.

The event included speeches from Make a Difference Sponsors, along with short sizzle reels presented by Headline Supporter, T-Mobile, WRMSDC MBE Platinum Partners: Eagle Promotions, iTalent Digital, Rose International, SBM Management, SHI International, World Wide Technology, and Zones, Inc, Annual Video Production supporter Storyville RD, and a tribute video from the evening's special guest of honor & venue supporter, MUFG Union Bank, N.A. A special tribute slideshow was also presented to honor the retirement of Lisa Castillo, formerly of AT&T. During the awards program, WRMSDC was presented with MUFG Union Bank Foundation's Julius Robinson Legacy Scholarship, a gift that will invest in communities of color by funding training, development, and services for minority-owned business enterprises that need critical support. The night ended with a victory dance party, inclusive of 2022 award winners and honorees.

The WRMSDC Excellence Awards Gala was supported by the following companies: T-Mobile, MUFG Union Bank, N.A., Google, JP Morgan Chase, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Eagle Promotions, Storyville RD, WaytoBe, EY, Genentech, Caesars Entertainment, Apple, Inc., MGM Resorts International, SBM Management, Certus Cybersecurity, California DGS, AMN Healthcare, BB Mechanical, Turner Construction, Southwest Gas, and Kaiser Permanente, and "Make a Difference" Sponsors: AMN Healthcare, Apple, Inc., Autodesk, California Water Association (CWA), Gilead Sciences, Robert Half, SBM Management and T-Mobile.

Corporate Members and certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) competed for awards celebrating individual and corporate advocacy, MBE development, and partnership with WRMSDC.

The 2022 Excellence in Supplier Diversity Award Winners are as follows:

The Activator Award: Marjorie Davies-Hutchings of State Fund won this award for being someone who personally engages with the council and MBEs in various activities throughout the year.

The Ambassador Award: Turner Construction was recognized as a company that volunteers their time and expertise, and advocates for WRMSDC by opening doors and serving as one of our most powerful allies.

The Collaborator Award: Tom Thattacherry was recognized as an individual who is always willing to share processes and procedures; an ideas person who is wonderful to talk to and bounce ideas off of.

The Guardian Award: Salvador "Sal" Peinado, Jr. of Autodesk was recognized as an individual who has supported WRMSDC with many years of stewardship and leadership; advocating within his company and others to direct resources towards supplier diversity initiatives.

The Kathleen Trimble Legend Award: Lisa Castillo was recognized for embodying Kathleen's spirit of giveback, wisdom, passion, leadership, and lifelong achievements for impacting communities of color.

The Warrior Award: MGM Resorts International won this award for being a proven leader who passionately gives back to WRMSDC and the MBE community.

President's Award: EY won this award for their commitment to diverse businesses and communities of color.

Unsung Hero Award: Deepak Choudhary of CWW Group was honored as being the owner of a small company that punches "above his weight" by volunteering time throughout the year to support the council.

All Money is Green Award: Rose International was recognized as an MBE that has done the most business with other certified MBEs in the previous year, being a part of the collective effort to create an equal national

workforce by prioritizing corporate diversity, inclusion, belonging and equity.

Buyer of the Year Award: Marketa Dobesova of Visa was recognized as a buyer who advocates for supplier diversity, MBEs, and WRMSDC within their company and community, but does not work directly within supplier diversity. WRMSDC judges said that Marketa has heart, is strategic and intentional, bridges gaps, and looks at the possibilities.

Cornerstone of the Year Award: Trident Consulting was recognized as a certified Class 3 MBE that has demonstrated company-wide support of WRMSDC and whose supplier diversity initiatives are moving the needle toward a more inclusive and diverse landscape. WRMSDC judges were impressed with Trident's passion, community focus, results driven approach, and sense of justice and equality.

Executive of the Year Award: Julius Robinson of MUFG Union Bank, N.A. won this award for being an executive that ensures his company allocates resources (financial and otherwise) to WRMSDC and supplier diversity in the region. WRMSDC judges felt that Julius is a strong supplier diversity advocate who looks not just at supplier diversity, but a variety of social and economic challenges impacting his community.

Local Corporation of the Year Award: Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco won this award for demonstrating company-wide support of WRMSDC and having supplier diversity initiatives that are moving the needle toward a more inclusive and diverse landscape.

MBE Input Committee People's Choice Award: LaSandra Hunt of JP Morgan Chase was recognized as the winner of the People's Choice Award by the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Input Committee.

National Corporation of the Year Award: MUFG Union Bank, N.A. was recognized for demonstrating company-wide support of WRMSDC. Judges loved their commitment to fostering long-term relationships, their engagement, enduring commitment to supplier diversity, and their resilience.

Prime Supplier of the Year Award: AMN Healthcare was recognized as a company that functions as a Prime Supplier and was named by WRMSDC judges as a company that is engaged and impactful, leading with empathy, and believes that inclusion is universal and that it's crucial to close the wealth gap.

Procurement Leader of the Year Award: Patrick Curry of MUFG Union Bank, N.A. was recognized as a team leader that works within procurement and purchasing who advocates for supplier diversity, MBEs, and WRMSDC within their company and community, but does not work directly within supplier diversity. WRMSDC judges felt that Patrick Curry is an individual that is driven, energized, inspiring, and innovative.

Supplier Diversity Leader of the Year Award: Donna Ruff of MUFG Union Bank, N.A., won this award for being a professional who has made significant contributions to WRMSDC with their time, support, and advocacy. WRMSDC Judges were impressed with her leadership, strategic approach, and creativity.

Supplier of the Year Awards are awarded to certified MBEs that demonstrate excellence in their services and products and show growth in sales and job creation.

Class 1 (Annual Sales less than \$1 million): JL Linen Recovery, Inc.

Class 2 (Annual Sales between \$1 million and \$10 million): BB Mechanical, LLC. WRMSDC judges appreciated BB Mechanical's dedication to its community, their integrity, excellence, passion, pride, and drive to help others.

Class 3 (Annual Sales between \$10 million and \$50 million): Honolulu Fish & Seafood Corp.

WRMSDC judges loved Honolulu Fish & Seafood Corp's commitment to business, community, and food sustainability; their innovation that helped them thrive during COVID, their focus on people and community, innovative pricing, and their incredible giveback.

Class 4 (Annual Sales above \$50 million): World Wide Technology (WWT). WRMSDC judges described WWT as a trail blazer, inspiring, influential, committed to the Council, and admired that they stand by their commitment to sustain communities and give back generously.

About WRMSDC

The Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) supports the growth and business development of minority communities by championing the use of minority-owned businesses in Northern California, Nevada, and Hawai'i. Please visit us online at wrmsdc.org.