



Commissioner Brad Avakian
Bureau of Labor and Industries

Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries 2010 Business Leadership Award Winners

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Information about the BOLI Business Leadership Awards:

The mission of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) is to protect employment rights through enforcement of civil rights and wage and hour laws; advance employment opportunities through apprenticeship job training; and protect access to housing and public accommodations.

Through the Business Leadership Awards, BOLI recognizes some of the businesses which exemplify the spirit of the BOLI mission in their work every day.

Civil Rights Champion Award – For businesses that show exceptional commitment to equal access, equal opportunity and diversity at work, in housing or in their communities.

Fair Workplace Champion Award – For businesses that show exceptional commitment to creating safe and healthy workplaces which provide living wage jobs.

Workforce Development Champion Award – For businesses that show exceptional commitment to the education, training and skill development of Oregon’s workforce.

This year’s winners are:

Company: **VERDE** Award Category: **Civil Rights Champion**

Nominator: Connie Ashbrook, Executive Director of Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.

Qualifications: Connie emphasized VERDE’s commitment to “improve the economic health of disadvantaged communities by creating environmental job training, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities.”

She appreciates the role that VERDE plays in connecting “low-income people and people of color with the economic benefits of protecting the environment” and overcoming the “Green Divide”—the gap between communities that have developed “meaningful environmental assets: parks, greenspaces, habitat, transit, investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency,” etc., and communities, notably for low-income people and people of color, which are “environmentally marginalized, excluded from the routine opportunities that build environmental wealth for other people.”



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Company: **Continental Mills – Pendleton Plant** Award Category: **Fair Workplaces Champion**

Nominator: Bob Bahrns, a Continental Mills employee.

Qualifications: Bob says, “I have... never seen a company this size treat it’s employees like family.”

Bob’s nomination thoroughly praised Continental Mills for its commitment to safety, including introduction of Behavior Based Safety practices and investment (to the tune of \$2 million) in “equipment, people, & processes to improve safety” at the Pendleton Plant. Bob also described the company’s wellness initiative, wages and benefits and the clear value placed on the employees.

Company: **MaPS Credit Union** Award Category: **Fair Workplaces Champion**

Nominator: Jennifer Cadiente, a MaPS Credit Union employee.

Qualifications: Jennifer says, “I am proud to work at MaPS Credit Union, a company that goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide for and protect its employees.”

Jennifer noted strong pay and benefit offerings, and described career pathways within the company that allow employees to advance, supported by paid training opportunities and “an in-house training department providing professional development education.” MaPS’ employee-friendly leave policies were also mentioned, which have helped Jennifer and other employees when they needed extended leave with pay.

Company: **Columbia River Bar Pilots**

Award Category: **Workforce Development Champion**

Nominator: Felecia Eby, a Columbia River Bar Pilots employee.

Qualifications: Felecia described a variety of training and development initiatives driven by the Bar Pilots. The Bar Pilots give deckhands opportunities to train as boat operators if they want to, employ youth from the Tongue Point Job Corps as fill-in deckhands, and pay for college courses for employees—encouraging advancement in the company as well as individuals’ careers.