



Career Development in Business and Industry for Talented Minorities

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# NEWS

## As America Becomes More Diverse, INROADS and the Country's Leading Corporations Keep up with the Trend

HARTFORD, Conn., February 28, 2007 – INROADS and the most successful corporations are embracing the country's diversity by recruiting, training, employing and providing growth opportunities for talented minority youth in business and industry.

This week, at the INROADS Best of Class Conference, the nation's leading corporations championing diversity met to discuss best practices and opportunities to increase their commitment to diversity within their managerial and executive ranks. The Best of Class Conference is also an opportunity for INROADS to recognize those corporations that went above and beyond to demonstrate their pledge to recruit and train minority collegians.

"Best of Class awards goes beyond celebrating the number of interns because, as we all know, diversity is about much more than just numbers," said Charles Cornelius, CEO of INROADS. "We recognize companies who enhance their environments to encourage a diverse employment base through retention and conversion metrics."

Partner and co-founder of DiversityInc Magazine and DiversityInc.com, Luke Visconti, spoke at the awards presentation. "This is an event that measures success. INROADS recognizes those businesses who make an investment in diversity. And it is important to know that this isn't charity. INROADS is an investment in a company's future," says Visconti.

Awards were presented in several categories; the following are the top two winners in each category:

**Growth Award** (recognizing those companies with the highest INROADS Intern growth percentage):

**Walgreens** with a growth percentage rate of 55%; grew from 38 to 59 interns

**Ernst & Young** with a growth percentage rate of 76%; grew from 90 to 158 interns

**Conversion Award** (recognizing those companies with the highest percentage of INROADS Interns who became full-time employees upon graduation):

**KPMG**, with a conversion rate of 95.5%

**PricewaterhouseCoopers**, with a conversion rate of 87.5%

**Retention Award** (recognizing those companies with the highest INROADS Intern retention percentage):

**KPMG**, with a retention rate of **92.3%**

**Ernst & Young**, with a retention rate of **94.4%**

**Executive Champion Award** (UTC representatives honored for their efforts to expand the partnership nationally and for acting as ambassadors of the INROADS mission):

Bob Currier

Tom McEachin

Jeffrey Pino

Participation in the ninth annual INROADS Best of Class conference and national awards ceremony was limited to INROADS National Accounts, comprised by those corporate clients that have made a significant commitment to the leadership and career development of exceptional multiethnic college students.

“UTC has partnered with INROADS for more than 20 years and today we still have roughly two-thirds of all the people who we’ve hired through INROADS since 1985. That is an enviable track record that we are very, very proud of, and we could not have accomplished that without INROADS,” says J. Thomas Bowler, UTC Vice President of Human Resources.

Founded in 1970, INROADS, Inc. is the nation's largest non-profit source of salaried corporate internships for excelling Black, Hispanic/Latino and Native American Indian college students. INROADS has graduated nearly 20,000 leaders, providing them with the professional skills and competencies necessary to be successful in advanced careers. With 54 offices throughout the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, INROADS trains and places more than 5,000 young men and women each year in salaried corporate internships. Since 1993, INROADS has consistently been named INROADS one of “America’s Top 10 Internships.” INROADS top corporate clients include Target, PwC, UTC, Deloitte, and Ernst & Young. To learn more, visit <http://www.INROADS.org>.

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