

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nominations open for inaugural *Illinois Job Honor Awards*

New Initiative aims to employ disadvantaged jobseekers by celebrating “A New Kind of Hero”

SPRINGFIELD, IL — The Illinois Job Honor Awards is accepting nominations for its first annual awards event, to be conducted November 30, 2016 in Lisle. The Awards will celebrate Illinoisans who have overcome significant barriers to employment and the employers who hire them.

Founded in Iowa in 2014, the awards are spreading nationwide under the banner of America’s Job Honor Awards. Previous honorees have overcome physical and mental disabilities, criminal convictions, limited English proficiency and long-term unemployment in their struggle for employment.

“Our society celebrates lottery winners, movie stars and professional athletes,” notes founder Kyle Horn. “We rarely hear inspiring stories of individuals whose lives are transformed through the hard work and perseverance that leads to meaningful employment. It’s time for a new kind of hero.”

The First Annual Illinois Job Honor Awards will be presented in partnership with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and Illinois State Council for the Society for Human Resource Management (ILSHRM) at their annual New Laws Forum at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville hotel in Lisle, Illinois.

“Illinois employers are always looking for the next great hire,” said Todd Maisch, president and CEO, Illinois Chamber of Commerce. “It’s no secret that Illinois has a great workforce as one of its greatest assets. But it’s also no secret that many employers have trouble finding qualified employees. These awards will help demonstrate success and show Illinoisans the potential for those who have barriers to employment.”

Top employee honorees will bring home \$500 each, and winners in both the employee and employer categories will receive engraved crystal awards. Biographical videos will be presented for all honorees. “Expect some deeply moving personal stories,” says Horn.

Nominations are invited through the organization’s website, www.JobHonor.org before the September 16, 2016 deadline. Honoree videos for previous winners can be viewed at the organization’s website.

About the Illinois Job Honor Awards:

The Illinois Job Honor Awards celebrates Illinoisans who have overcome significant barriers to employment, and the employers who hire them. IJHA’s mission is to rekindle hope and energize the work ethic across Illinois, through the celebration of a new kind of hero. www.JobHonor.org

Lead sponsor of the Awards is **ManpowerGroup**, world leader in innovative workforce solutions.

About the Illinois Chamber of Commerce:

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce has been the unifying voice for Illinois business since 1919. The Chamber advocates for and promotes prosperity and a pro-business climate in Illinois. www.ILChamber.org

About Illinois State Council for the Society for Human Resource Management (ILSHRM)

The Illinois State Council for the Society for Human Resource Management (ILSHRM) is dedicated to serving the needs of SHRM chapters in Illinois by representation to the National Society of SHRM and assistance in achieving each SHRM Illinois Chapter's highest potential. The ILSHRM promotes professionalism in human resources and adds value to the SHRM membership. The ILSHRM Board is made up of volunteer representatives across Illinois who serve to advance the human resources profession. www.ilshrm.org

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