

Rough Draft

GCDE AWARDS LUNCHEON

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Embassy Suites, Lynnwood, Washington

* * REALTIME ROUGH DRAFT - UNCERTIFIED COPY * *

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Connie E. Church
CART Provider
NCRA Certified Realtime Captioner

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>> BARRY LONG: GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE, AND WELCOME. MY NAME IS BARRY LONG AND I'M GOING TO CHANGE MICROPHONES. ALL RIGHT. THERE WE GO. MY NAME IS BARRY LONG AND I'M THE EMCEE FOR TODAY'S EVENT. WE'VE JUST HIT THE 11:30 MARK SO THEY'RE GOING TO START SERVING FOOD AND THEN WE WILL GET STARTED -- I SAY PROMPT -- SOMEWHERE RIGHT AROUND NOON. SO GO AHEAD AND ENJOY MEAL TODAY. ON THE BIG SCREEN BEHIND ME IS A SLIDE WITH THE STATE SEAL OF AN IMAGE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON TON WITH THE WORDS SEAL OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON 1889, WHICH IS HOW LONG OUR STATE'S BEEN AROUND. AND THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO GET US STARTED HERE. SO PLEASE ENJOY YOUR LUNCH AND WE'LL GET STARTED HERE IN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE.

(APPLAUSE)

>> JANET BRUCKSHEN: GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE. CAN YOU HEAR ME OKAY? WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR THE INTERPRETER. WELL, THANK YOU, WELCOME TO THE 30TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYER AWARDS EVENT. WE'RE VERY EXCITED TO BE LIVE AND LAST COUPLE YEARS WE'VE DONE IT VIRTUALLY. MY NAME IS JANET BRUCKSHEN. I'M THE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE THIS YEAR. AND I WANT TO -- I JUST LOOKED DOWN AND I WAS SUPPOSED TO OFFICIALLY WELCOME YOU BUT I ALREADY DID. THIS IS OUR 30TH ANNUAL EVENT AND I REMEMBER -- THIS IS GOING TO AGE ME BUT I REMEMBER BEING AT THE VERY FIRST ONE WHEN I WAS 8. AND I REMEMBER HOW EXCITED I WAS TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE EMPLOYERS WHO WERE REALLY BEING CHANGE AGENTS FOR THE TIME AND DIFFERENCE MAKERS AND IT WAS JUST SUCH A COOL EVENT AND I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A PART OF IT SO IT'S BEEN REALLY EXCITING TO BE THE CLAIRE THIS YEAR. THANK YOU ALL FOUR BEING HERE AND HELPING US CELEBRATE THOSE EMPLOYERS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE. WE ARE AN EXCITING PROGRAM TODAY. MANY NOMINEES FOR VARIOUS AWARDS. QUICK SCANT OF THE NOMINATIONS. WE HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE RESTAURANT FIELD, HOTEL INDUSTRIES, GROCERS, EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, MANUFACTURING, HOSPITALS, COLLEGES, VETERANS AND DEPARTMENT STORES. WHILE THE BUSINESS PLANS MAY LOOK ENTIRELY DIFFERENT WE ALL SHARE A COMMON GOAL AND THAT'S TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. AND WORK ENVIRONMENTS THAT STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY. ON THE SLIDE IS A PHOTO OF ME WEARING A BLACK SWEATER AND A BLUE BLOUSE SMILING AWKWARDLY. I'M GOING TO ADD THAT. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN THE PROGRAM BY SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. WE'VE GIFTED TO HAVE A GIFTED MUSICIAN HERE TO SING IT FOR US. IT'S MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO STEVE STEFANOWICZ. STEVE HAS BEEN PLAYING MUSIC SINCE CHILDHOOD AND PERFORMING PROFESSIONALLY SINCE HE WAS IN HIGH

SCHOOL. HE GREW UP IN TACOMA WASHINGTON AND HAS WORKED AS A SOCIAL WORKER, A GUITAR INSTRUCTOR AND MOST RECENTLY AT JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND. HE'S KNOWN AS THE HUMAN JUKEBOX BECAUSE OF HIS WIDE REPERTOIRE. STEVE CONTINUES TO AMAZE AUDIENCES WITH HIS EXCEPTIONAL GUITAR AND VOCAL TALENTS. HE RECENTLY PERFORMED IN GERMANY WITH TASTE OF IRON AND HE IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS ALUMNI FOUNDATION. STEVE WAS A GUEST CONDUCTOR AT THE TACOMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND HE WON BLUES MAN OF THE YEAR FROM THE TACOMA BLUES SOCIETY. HIS MOST RECENT RELEASE IS OUT WITH AN ORCHESTRA. PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING GIVING A ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO STEVE STEFANOWICZ.

(APPLAUSE)

>> BARRY LONG: AND ON THE SLIDE IS A PICTURE OF STEVE HOLDING A GUITAR WITH A WAIVING AMERICAN FLAG AGAINST A SKY BLUE BACKGROUND. ALL RIGHT STEVE, COME ON UP.

>> THANK YOU FOR HELP WITH THE WALK UP. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I ALWAYS GET NERVOUS WHEN I SAY THIS HAS GOT TO BE PERFECT. HERE WE GO.

NATIONAL ANTHEM BEING SUNG

(APPLAUSE)

>> JANET BRUCKSHEN: THANK YOU SO MUCH, STEVE. THAT WAS WONDERFUL. THANK YOU. ONE MORE TIME LET'S HEAR IT FOR STEVE

(APPLAUSE)

SO NOW I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU BARRY LONG. BARRY IS OUR MASTER'S OF CEREMONIES FOR TODAY AND WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE HIM BACK. WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL HE IS SO WILLING TO HELP US DURING TODAY'S PROGRAM. HE HAS

SERVED AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES IN THE PAST, MANY AWARDS PROGRAM. HE'S BOTH A SUPPORTER OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS WELL AS A DOER. FOR MANY YEARS HE HAS SERVED AS A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER AND IN RECENT YEARS HE HAS SHOWN HIS SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS A RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE BROKER WHO SPECIALIZES IN HOMES WITH MARKETPLACE SOTHEBY'S. HIS SUPPORT AND HIS ACTIONS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO MODEL. PLEASE JOIN ME IN GIVING A WARM WELCOME FOR BARRY LONG.

(APPLAUSE)

>> BARRY LONG: WAIT. DON'T LEAVE YET. WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU. I'LL GIVE THAT TO YOU.

>> WE'RE GOING TO INTERRUPT THE PROGRAM FOR JUST A MOMENT, MY NAME IS WARREN WEISSMAN. I'M ONE OF TWO ADVICE CHAIRS FOR OUR GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE. PAT BAUCCIO COULDN'T BE HERE TODAY SO SHE ASKED ME TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT A VERY SPECIAL PERSON. JANET, WHO YOU ALREADY KNOW HAS BEEN THE CHAIR OF THE AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE. AM I BLOCKING ANYTHING IMPORTANT HERE? JANET HAS BEEN THE CHAIR OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR QUITE AWHILE. AND BEING THE CHAIR MEANS THAT YOU'RE THE GLUE THAT HOLDS THE SUBCOMMITTEE TOGETHER, WORKS VERY CLOSELY WITH THE STAFF PERSON, RYAN BONDROFF IN THIS CASE, WHO'S ASSIGNED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE. AND REALLY MAKES EVERYTHING GO AND HAS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY. IT'S A BIG TIME COMMITMENT. I KNOW BECAUSE IN ADDITION TO BEING VICE CHAIR OF THE ENTIRE COMMITTEE I'M ALSO THE CHAIR OF ANOTHER ONE OF OUR SUBCOMMITTEES. IT'S A BIG TIME COMMITMENT. ALL OF US THAT ARE GCDE MEMBERS ARE VOLUNTEERS BUT IT SO HAPPENS THAT JANET STOPPED BEING A GCDE MEMBER BACK AT THE END OF 2020. SHE HAD BEEN A GCDE MEMBER FOR SIX YEARS. THAT'S THE LONGEST THAT WE CAN SERVE, TWO, THREE YEAR TERMS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. SO SHE WENT OFF TO LEAD HER LIFE. BUT WE REALIZED -- PAT BAUCCIO, OUR CHAIR, REALIZE ADD FEW MONTHS LATER THAT WE HAD A PROBLEM. WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF TURN OVER IN 2019 AND 2020, LOST A LOT OF EXPERIENCED PEOPLE AND THEN WITH

THE PANDEMIC A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT JOINED GCDE AS MEMBERS WEREN'T REALLY ABLE TO GAIN THE KIND OF EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO CHAIR A SUBCOMMITTEE. SO PAT MADE A PHONE CALL AND ASKED JANET WHAT SHE WAS DOING AND WOULD SHE BE WILLING TO HELP. AND JANET IS I WOULD CALL HER VOLUNTEER TO VOLUNTEER IN THE SENSE THAT SHE CAME BACK NOT AS A GCDE MEMBER BUT JUST AS A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AND IT'S VERY UNUSUAL THAT A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WOULD CHAIR ONE OF OUR SUBCOMMITTEES AND MANAGE ONE OF THE PROGRAMS BUT THAT'S WHAT JANET HAS BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, LAST YEAR WITH A VIRTUAL EVENT AND THIS YEAR WE'RE FINALLY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN AND SHE'S SUPERVISED PUTTING ALL THIS TOGETHER AND TURNING THIS INTO WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT. I JUST WANTED TO THANK JANET. BARRY'S GOING TO READ WHAT IT SAYS ON A CERTIFICATE THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOU. AND ON BEHALF OF PAT AND THE ENTIRE COMMITTEE WE'D REALLY LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE EFFORT THAT YOU'VE PUT INTO THIS AS A VOLUNTEER BEYOND BEING A GCDE VOLUNTEER.

(APPLAUSE)

>> JANET BRUCKSHEN: ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT.

>> BARRY LONG: IT'S A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF YOUR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARDS PROGRAM AND GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND IN ALL ASPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM AND THE GCDE AND WE THANK YOU AND WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR US. GET THIS PARTY STARTED. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE IN PERSON. THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN TO THIS EVENT IT'S BEEN BIGGER BUT WE'RE JUST SLOWLY STARTING TO GET OURSELVES BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN. LAST YEAR'S EVENT WAS VIRTUAL AND THERE WAS JUST SOMETHING MISSING EVEN THOUGH IT WAS AS FUN AS IT WAS. HAVING YOU HERE IN THE ROOM AND BEING ABLE TO

THANK THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE HERE. UNFORTUNATELY THE GOVERNOR COULD NOT MAKE IT TODAY. WE WERE DOING WHAT WE COULD TO GET HIM HERE BUT HE JUST E-MAILED US SOME REMARKS. SO I'M GOING TO READ SOME REMARKS FROM THE GOVERNOR BEFORE I OPEN IT UP. REMARKS FROM THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYER AWARDS. I'M NOW GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE. HELLO EVERYONE AND WELCOME. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY -- I GAVE THEM PERMISSION TO SLOW ME DOWN -- HELLO EVERYONE AND WELCOME. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 30TH AND VERSE RIF THE GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYER AWARDS. I WISH THAT I COULD JOIN YOU TODAY BUT I WANT TO TAKE THIS MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE ALL OF THE EMPLOYERS, BOTH AWARD RECIPIENTS AND NOMINEES WHO MAKE AN INCLUSIVE WORKPLACE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. IN THESE TIMES OF WORKER SHORTAGES, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REPRESENT A READY, WILLING AND CAPABLE LABOR POOL THAT CAN ENHANCE WASHINGTON'S ECONOMY. EMPLOYERS RECOGNIZED HERE TODAY KNOW THAT WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES BRING TENACITY, CREATIVITY, AND DEDICATION TO THEIR WORKPLACE AND HAVE CREATED EQUITABLE, OPEN AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL THEIR WORKERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH DISABILITIES. WORKERS TODAY WITH DISABILITIES REMAIN AN UNDERUTILIZED RESOURCE AND MY CHALLENGE TO ALL OF US TODAY IS TO CONTINUE TO CREATE EQUITABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENTS FOR WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES ACROSS THE STATE SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO CREATE A WASHINGTON WHERE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE FULL EQUITY, FULL INCLUSION AND THRIVE ECONOMICALLY. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU VOLUNTEERS WHO PUT TOGETHER THIS EVENT AND THANK YOU TO THE EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS. WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU. GOVERNOR INSLEE.

(APPLAUSE)

>> BARRY LONG: SO IT'S APPROPRIATE THAT THIS IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH AND WHAT'S INTERESTING TO ME IS THAT IT'S ONLY

BEEN IN THE LAST FIVE OR SIX YEARS THAT THEY'VE HAD NATIONAL AWARENESS AROUND DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT BUT YET THIS IS OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY. WASHINGTON STATE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CUTTING EDGE OF HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. AND WHAT'S BEEN AWESOME FOR ME IN MY 30 YEARS OF BEING IN A WHEELCHAIR, BECAUSE IN 1991 I CRASHED MY MOTORCYCLE AND I PUT MYSELF IN A WHEELCHAIR AND I AM NOW A MANUAL WHEELCHAIR USER THAT I LEARNED OVERNIGHT WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO HAVE A DISABILITY AND TRY AND GET INTO THE WORKFORCE. IT WAS INTERESTING TO ME AT FIRST BECAUSE THE STEREOTYPES OF HOW PEOPLE TREAT SOMEBODY WITH A DISABILITY ARE THERE AND PEOPLE DO THE THINGS THAT WE GIGGLE ABOUT, HOW THEY TALK SLOW TO ME, HOW THEY LOOK DOWN AT ME, HOW THEY AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT I CAN'T DO BECAUSE FOR ME PERSONALLY I'M IN A WHEELCHAIR. AND IT SCANS THE SPECTRUM OF THOSE OF US WITH DISABILITIES BECAUSE THERE ARE STEREOTYPES THERE OF WHAT WE CAN'T DO VERSUS FLIPPING THAT AND FIGURING OUT WHAT WE CAN DO. I'VE OWNED A PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPANY FOR OVER 30 YEARS AND I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO THIS AND DO LEADERSHIP SEMINARS AND TRAININGS AND KEY NOTES. AND MY FAVORITE KEYNOTE IS TO THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEES Y L F WHICH IS THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM. IT'S A SPONSORED CAMP FOR KIDS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. AND FOR A WEEK THESE KIDS GETTING TO GO TO A LOCATION, MOST OF THEM GETTING AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, AND THEY LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP. AND WHAT I LOVE ABOUT THAT EVENT IS THAT THOSE KIDS GET TO LEARN FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HOW -- AND I USE THE TERM SPECIAL THEY ARE BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITY. AND ONE OF MY FAVORITE ASPECTS OF GETTING TO TALK TO THESE KIDS AT YLF IS TO TELL THEM THAT THEIR DISABILITY IS WHAT MAKES THEM MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYBODY ELSE. IT'S BECAUSE OF WHO THEY ARE THAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL. AND WHAT I FOUND RIGHT AWAY BEING IN A WHEELCHAIR WAS THAT I COULD GO INTO A JOB INTERVIEW AND EVEN THOUGH ALL OF US THAT WERE BEING INTERVIEWED WERE SOMEWHAT EQUAL, I HAD SOMETHING THAT NO ONE ELSE HAD. AND WHAT WERE THEY GOING TO

REMEMBER? THEY WERE GOING TO REMEMBER ME BECAUSE I WAS IN A WHEELCHAIR AND I LEARNED HOW TO TAKE THAT POWER AND TURN IT TO MY ADVANTAGE AND THAT'S WHAT EMPLOYERS ESPECIALLY IN THIS STATE ARE DOING IS TAKING THAT POWER OF THOSE OF US WHO HAVE DISABILITIES, BRINGING US INTO THE WORKPLACE, AND NOT ONLY ENHANCING THEIR WORKSPACE BUT ENHANCING THEIR WORK ATTITUDE. DID YOU KNOW THAT IN THE COUNTRY, COMPANIES THAT HIRE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE A 28 PERCENT HIGHER REVENUE STREAM THAN THOSE WHO DON'T. AND THAT'S A NATIONAL FACT. SO IT'S AMAZING TO ME THAT PEOPLE HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT UP UNTIL JUST THE LAST FEW YEARS, SOMETHING THAT WE'VE BEEN DOING IN OUR STATE FOR 30 YEARS NOW. SO I APPLAUD ALL OF YOU FOR BEING HERE BECAUSE THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE EMPLOYERS GET IT. WHEN YOU HIRE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THE MORALE OF YOUR COMPANY GOES UP. ONE OF MY FAVORITE STORIES AS I LISTEN TO THE CEO OF WALGREEN'S. SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HIM SPEAK AND HE TOLD THE STORY ABOUT THE WALGREEN'S MANUFACTURING -- WALGREEN'S IS LIKE THEIR BACK END IS LIKE A WALMART OR AN AMAZON WHERE YOU GO ONLINE, YOU ORDER SOMETHING AND THEN THERE'S ASSEMBLY LINE OF GETTING ALL THOSE THINGS THAT YOU ORDERED AND THEY TAKE THOSE PRODUCTS AND PEOPLE PUT THOSE IN LITTLE TUBS AND THE TUBS GO THROUGH AND THEN THEY GET SHIPPED OUT. WELL WHAT THEY HAD WAS THEY HAD HIRED THIS GENTLEMAN WHO WAS PRETTY SEVERELY AUTISTIC. HE WAS ON THE SPECTRUM. AND ALL OF THEIR TUBS IN THIS MANUFACTURING PLANT WERE BLUE BUT SOMEHOW SOMEBODY HAD ORDER MISS ORDERED A COUPLE OF THESE TUBS AND THERE WERE PURPLE TUBS ONCE IN AWHILE. EVERY TIME A PURPLE TUB WOULD COME THROUGH THIS ONE GENTLEMAN WOULD DANCE AND HE WOULD GET ALL EXCITED AND HE WOULD SPIN AROUND AND HE WOULD GET THE PRODUCTS AND HE WOULD EVENTUALLY PUT THEM IN THE TUB BECAUSE HE WAS TOO BUSY DANCING. YOU KNOW WHAT MANAGEMENT DID? MANAGEMENT GOT RID OF THE PURPLE TUBS BECAUSE HE WAS WASTING TIME. AND THE REST OF THE MISTACHKIN CAME THROUGH AND SAID IF YOU DON'T BRING THE PURPLE TUBS BACK, WE'RE ALL QUITTING BECAUSE THAT PURPLE TUB MADE

EVERYBODY ELSE IN THAT WHOLE MANUFACTURING PLANT HAPPY BECAUSE THAT GENTLEMAN WOULD DANCE EVERY TIME A PURPLE TUB WOULD COME UP. SO IT SHOWED THE FACT AND WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT WAS THEY MAY HAVE ADDED A FEW PURPLE TUBS BECAUSE THEY REALIZED THAT THE MORALE OF THAT ENTIRE GROUP WAS BENEFITING. BRETT IS ONE OF OUR SPONSORS TODAY. AUNT ANNIE'S PRETZELS. HE TELLS THE STORY OF WHEN HE HIRED HIS FIRST PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND I BELIEVE THAT HE HAD DOWN'S SYNDROME. THEY TAUGHT HIM HOW TO MAKE PRETZELS. HE BECAME THE NUMBER ONE PRETZEL MAKER IN NOT ONLY THEIR COMPANY BUT NATIONWIDE. AND PEOPLE WOULD COME TO THEIR STORE TO WATCH HIM MAKE PRETZELS. BRETT WAS LIKE CAN I TWIN YOU? CAN I HAVE ONE OF YOU IN EVERY SINGLE ONE OF OUR STORES? IT BROUGHT MORALE UP. IT BROUGHT HIS CLIENT'S IDEAS OF WHAT THEY COULD DO WITH PRETZELS. YOU HIRE SOMEBODY WITH A DISABILITY YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET. THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF HIRING SOMEBODY WITH A DISABILITY, YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET. I THANK ALL OF YOU THAT ARE HERE TODAY. THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE NOMINATED, THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE GOING TO WIN AN AWARD. BECAUSE WE COLLECTIVELY MAKE OUR STATE AND COUNTRY BETTER BECAUSE OF WHY WE'RE HERE TODAY. HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DOES NOTHING BUT BENEFIT EVERYBODY IN OUR COMMUNITY. AGAIN CLOSING MY OPENING, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR DOING EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO. WE'VE GOT A REALLY COOL EVENT TODAY. WE'RE GOING TO GO THROUGH AND LIST A WHOLE BUNCH OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES THAT ARE HERE. I'M GOING TO START BY INTRODUCING SOMEBODY ELSE. EMILY IS DAVE ON THE VIDEO? I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE DAVE REYNOLDS. THERE SHOULD AND SLIDE OF DAVE. THE SLIDE IS ACTUALLY A PICTURE OF DAVE LOOKING AT THE CAMERA A LITTLE BIT SIDWAYS. HE'S GOT GLASSES. HE'S A MIDDLE-AGED GENTLEMAN WITH A WHITE MUSTACHE. THE SLIDE SAYS 2022 GOVERNOR'S TROPHY IN MEMORY OF CAROLYN BLAIR BROWN PRESENTED BY DAVE REYNOLDS. AND DAVE WAS THE 2020 GOVERNOR'S TROPHY RECIPIENT. HE WAS HONORED FOR HIS WORK WITH SPOKANE ACCESS4ALL WHICH IS A PROJECT INVOLVING

FAMILY MEMBERS, EDUCATORS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND OTHER ALLIES THAT COME TOGETHER WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY FRIENDLINESS IN OUR AREA. PLEASE JOIN ME IN VIRTUALLY WELCOMING DAVE. HE COULDN'T JOIN US TODAY BUT HAS PREPARED A VIDEO PRESENTATION.

>> DAVE REYNOLDS: THE GOVERNOR'S TROPHY IN MEMORY OF CAROLYN BLAIR BROWN IS PRESENTED TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY. THIS IS FOR SERVICES, LEGISLATION OR OTHER ACTIVITIES RESULTING IN POSITIVE OUTCOMES ENHANCING THE OUTCOMES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE. THIS AWARD WAS NAMED AFTER CAROLYN BLAIR BROWN, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE. SHE WAS TRULY A WOMAN AHEAD OF HER TIME. IN HER CASE IT WAS AN ADULT ONSET BLINDNESS. SHE EMBRACED THE DISABILITY SHE FACED AND IT FUELED HER TO BE PROACTIVE ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. A DRIVING FORCE OF HER ADVOCACY WAS TO ESTABLISH ONE VOICE AND TO EMPOWER PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE A RANGE OF DISABILITIES. IT IS MY HONOR TO INTRODUCE THIS YEAR'S NOMINEES.

>> JANET BRUCKSHEN: IF YOU HEAR YOUR NAME, COME ON UP AND GET YOUR CERTIFICATES.

>> DAVE REYNOLDS: BRENT KING. BRENT KING SKIS THROUGH THE TREES AND POWDER AT SNOWMASS, COLORADO AT THE NATION'S VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC WHERE HE MENTORS NEW SPINAL CORD INJURIES EVERY YEAR IN LEARNING HOW TO SKI.

IVANOVA SMITH. IVANOVA SMITH IS PASSIONATE ABOUT EQUITY, DISABILITY RIGHTS AND TRUE INCLUSION FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. BRENT KING WAS NOMINATED BY SKIP DREPS OF THE NORTHWEST PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER AND IVANOVA SMITH WAS NOMINATED BY YVONNE BUSSLER WHITE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION. ON THE SLIDE IS A FEET OVER BRENT KING WEARING A BLUE POLO SHIRT AND IVANOVA SMITH WEARING A RED

BUTTONED DOWN SHIRT. BOTH ARE SMILING FOR THE CAMERA. ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATES ARE BRENT KING AND IVANOVA SMITH.

>> BARRY LONG: HE JUST SAID WHAT WAS ON THE SLIDE. IVANOVA IS WEARING A RED SHIRT AND A BLUE TIE AND PRESENT'S WEARING A BLUE SHIRT AND SUNGLASSES. THANK YOU BOTH SO MUCH. THERE WE GO.

>> DAVE REYNOLDS: IT IS MY HONOR TO PRESENT THE GOVERNOR'S TROPHY IN MEMORY OF CAROLYN BLAIR BROWN TO IVANOVA SMITH.

(APPLAUSE)

>> THEY ARE A LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY KNOWN DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, PUBLIC SPEAKER AND LEADER FOR THE SELF-ADVOCACY COMMUNITY. THEIR ADVOCACY IS VAST AND INCLUDES, AMONGST OTHER EFFORTS, MEETING WITH AND TESTIFYING BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE. IVANOVA IS PASSIONATE IN MAKING SURE ALL PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ARE GIVEN ACCESS TO ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE, WORK, HAVING FRIENDSHIPS IN COMMUNITY, MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN. ACCEPTING THE AWARD IS IVANOVA SMITH.

CONGRATULATIONS IVY A NOVEMBER A THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SAY A FEW WORDS. AND ON THE SLIDE IS A PHOTO OF IVANOVA WEARING GLASS AND A RED BUTTON UP.

>> HELLO. I'M IVANOVA. I'M VERY HONORED TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD. I'M VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT MAKING THIS COUNTRY A BETTER PLACE FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME. I WAS AN IMMIGRANT. I CAME HERE WHEN I WAS FIVE AND A HALF. I WAS INSTITUTIONALIZED AND NOW I'M RECEIVING THIS AWARD. AND THE REASON I'M HERE IS BECAUSE I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OTHERS LIKE ME DO NOT EXPERIENCE WHAT I EXPERIENCED AND ALSO EXPERIENCE THE THINGS THAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED THAT I FOUGHT FOR. AND I WANT TO MAKE THIS WORLD A MORE INCLUSIVE PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. SO THANK YOU FOR SEEING THE WORK I DO AND HELPING TO CONTINUE THAT WORK. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

(APPLAUSE)

>> BARRY LONG: THANK YOU DAVE AND IVANOVA. CONGRATULATIONS. SO NOW ON THE BIG SCREEN IS A PICTURE OF CATHY EYLAR. PICTURE OF HER WITH SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT HAIR THAN SHE HAS NOW. SHE'S WEARING A WHITE SUIT COAT WITH A LITTLE BLACK TOP. IT SAYS THE 2022 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD PRESENTED BY CATHY EYLAR, ABILITY EMPLOYMENT 2021 AWARD RECIPIENT. CATHY EYLAR HAS OVER 10 YEARS OF DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO GAIN AND RETAIN EMPLOYMENT IN SPOKANE COUNTY. SHE CHANGES HATS EFFORTLESSLY, GOING FROM A MENTOR TO A COACH, TO A MORAL FIGURE, TO A FRIEND, TO A COLLEAGUE, TO A LEADER, TO A SHOULDER TO CRY ON OR AN EAR TO LISTEN AND BACK AGAIN. CATHY JUST DOESN'T SHOW UP, SHE IMMERSSES HERSELF IN THE WORK THAT NEEDS DONE TO MOVE FOLKS TOWARDS THEIR DREAMS AND DESIRES. CATHY.

>> CATHY: I HAD TO REALLY DIG HARD TO FIND MY PRESENTER CAP AND DUST IT OFF SO IT'S A LITTLE RUSTY. SO THE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD WAS CREATED TO RECOGNIZE EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO PROVIDE EXEMPLARY SERVICE IN THEIR PROFESSION. OUR NOMINEES HAVE DEMONSTRATED A COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR QUEST TO LIVE THEIR BEST LIFE WITH FULL COMMUNITY INCLUSION. THROUGH THEIR INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND BEST PRACTICES, THEY HAVE SECURED STRONG EMPLOYMENT MATCHES AND HELPED ENSURE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES TO THOSE THEY SERVE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND YOUR PASSION. IT IS MY HONOR TO INTRODUCE THIS YEAR'S NOMINEES.

ALL RIGHT. SO ANJA POST HAS DEDICATED HER CAREER TO HELPING JOB SEEKERS AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES REACH THEIR GOALS AND DREAMS OF ACCESSING EDUCATION AND THE WORKPLACE IN THEIR OWN, INDIVIDUALIZED

JOURNEY. IN HER 31 PLUS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, ANJA DEMONSTRATES GRIT AND DETERMINATION, MAKING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DEEPLY RICH AS THEY BELONG AND PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY OF THEIR CHOICE.

MARY SABETTO HAS DEDICATED HER ENTIRE LIFE AND CAREER TO MAKING SURE THAT INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE CHOICES, SELF DETERMINATION, INCLUSION AND JOY IN THEIR LIVES. HER FOCUS DOESN'T END AT THE LAST ENTRY ON HER TIME CARD BUT IS PART OF EVERYTHING SHE DOES.

ANJA POST WAS NOMINATED BY REBECCA JANSSON OF SEATTLE CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE. AND MARY SABETTO WAS NOMINATED BY DAN MISCH OF WASHINGTON VOCATIONAL SERVICES.

ANJA, WOULD YOU AND REBECCA COME AND GET YOUR CERTIFICATES. AND IS MARY HERE?

(APPLAUSE)

ON THE SLIDE IS A PICTURE OF ANJA POST STANDING WITH A SUPPORTED EMPLOYEE IN AN ORANGE VEST NEXT TO A CART WITH CLEANING SUPPLIES AND MARY SABETTO SIGNING IN ASL TO A MAN WITH HIS BACK TO THE CAMERA STANDING IN FRONT OF A ROLLING GARBAGE CAN. THE 2022 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR IS MARY SABETTO.

(APPLAUSE)

A SPARK WAS LIT AT A VERY YOUNG AGE WHILE MARY WAS WATCHING A MOVIE WITH HER MOTHER ABOUT THE LIFE OF HELEN KELLER. IN THAT MOMENT SHE DECIDED SHE WANTED TO IMMERSE HERSELF IN LEARNING TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS USING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE. OVER THE PAST 25 PLUS YEARS MARY HAS DEDICATED HER CAREER AS WELL AS HER LIFE TO SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENSURE THEY HAVE ACHIEVE FULL INCLUSION IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND HAVE THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. SO MARY EMPOWERS HER CLIENTS TO GROW SO FINDING A JOB FOR SOMEONE IS NEVER THE END OF HER WORK. SHE CHALLENGES THEM TO CONTINUE TO FIND NEW WAYS TO EXCEL IN THEIR JOBS AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIFE. OVER THE YEARS, SHE HAS DEVELOPED

NUMEROUS BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS, HELPING THEM RECOGNIZE THE BENEFIT OF HIRING TALENT WITH DISABILITIES, AND HAS SUPPORTED COUNTLESS CUSTOMERS IN OBTAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK, LIVE AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. SHE DOESN'T LET CHALLENGES SLOW HER DOWN, AND THIS IS NOT JUST TRUE FOR THOSE SHE SUPPORTS BUT HER OWN. IN 2018, A FALLEN TREE ON THE INTERSTATE HIT MARY'S CAR AND RESULTED IN LIFE-THREATENING INJURIES. THE PARAMEDICS REPORTED THAT HER FIRST THOUGHT UPON RETAINING CONSCIOUSNESS WAS ABOUT HER CUSTOMERS' NEEDS THE FOLLOWING DAY. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HER LASER FOCUS ON HER ADVOCACY WAS WHEN THE HOSPITAL BROUGHT HER A COMFORT KIT. EARLY ON IN HER STAY. HER FIRST QUESTION TO THEM WAS WHO PUTS THESE TOGETHER FOR YOU? I'VE GOT A CUSTOMER WHO WOULD LOVE A POSITION LIKE THIS. WHO CAN I TALK TO? PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING MARY SABETTO AS THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD.

(APPLAUSE)

I'D LOVE TO THANK THE ACADEMY. I AM WEARING A GORGEOUS DRESS AND I AM LOOKING WAY YOUNGER THAN I AM, WAY. I WORK WITH PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES THAT ARE DEAF AND BLIND AND DEAFBLIND. AND I DON'T DESERVE THIS. THEY DO. SORRY. SO THIS IS FOR THEM. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

(APPLAUSE)

SORRY. PICTURE. I APOLOGIZE. MY BACK WAS TO YOU. I FEEL TERRIBLE.

(APPLAUSE)

>> BARRY LONG: CONGRATULATIONS. THAT WAS FANTASTIC. SO IT IS MY PLEASURE NOW TO INTRODUCE A DEAR FRIEND OF MINE. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PRONOUNCE HER NAME FOR MANY, MANY MANY YEARS. ELAINE STEFANOWICZ, ON THE SLIDE AND NOW ON THE STAGE IS MY FRIEND ELAINE. ELAINE IS THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT. AND WE'LL NOW MOVE THE PRESENTATION INTO THE GOVERNOR'S 2022 NON-PROFIT PUBLIC PRIVATE AND YOUTH EMPLOYER

AWARDS NOMINEES. BUT FIRST I'D LIKE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO TALK ABOUT ELAINE FOR A MOMENT. AND INTRODUCE HER BECAUSE I KNOW SHE GETS EMBARRASSED EASY SO I'M GOING TO SIT HERE AND LET YOU LOOK AT HER IN HER PURPLE. ELAINE IS LIKE I SAID THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT. IN 1997 -- CHECK THIS PART OUT -- SHE WON THE MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA PAGEANT. WINNING THE TITLE WAS LIFE CHANGING FOR HER. IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE THAT HELPED ELAINE WIN A FULL RIDE SCHOLARSHIP AND THE 2003 WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS PACIFIC PEAKS COUNCIL. ELAINE IS NOW STAFF FOR THE GCDE AND I WAS GOING TO SAY ON THE SLIDE BUT SHE'S NOW WEARING PURPLE BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS WEARS PURPLE AND I'M GOING TO GUESS SHE'S SMILING. I WROTE SHE WOULD BE SMILING HERE. MIGRATE FRIEND ELAINE IS GOING TO GO THROUGH THE REST OF THE PRESENTATION. ELAINE STEFANOWICZ.

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: THANK YOU. ISN'T BARRY DOING A GREAT JOB?

(APPLAUSE)

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: HE'S GOT THAT VOICE, DOESN'T HE? IF YOU SAW THE NAME STEFANOWICZ BEFORE, THAT WAS MY EX-HUSBAND STEVE WHO CAME AND SANG THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. PEOPLE ARE LIKE YOU GET ALONG SO WELL. YEAH. WE DON'T LIVE TOGETHER ANYMORE. DOING GREAT NOW. YEAH. IT'S REALLY NICE. HE HAS SANG THE NATIONAL ANTHEM FOR SEVERAL YEARS. ALWAYS NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH GREAT TALENT IN THE FAMILY. OKAY. SMALL PRIVATE EMPLOYER. IT IS MY HONOR TO RECOGNIZE THE 2022 SMALL PRIVATE EMPLOYER NOMINEES. HOPS N DROPS SNOHOMISH WAS NOMINATED BY TESS HERNANDEZ OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES AND CANYON PARK MOD PIZZA WAS NOMINATED BY CAITLYN WALKER OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES. ON THE SLIDE IS A PHOTO OF A YOUNG WOMAN WEARING DISPOSABLE GLOVES AND A HOPS N DROPS POLO SHIRT AT A WORK STATION AS WELL AS TWO MOD PIZZA EMPLOYEES WEARING GLASSES AND HOLDING PIZZA BOXES SMILING FOR THE CAMERA. SO ACCEPTING THIS CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR HOPS N DROPS IS CHRISTINA PETRONE. A MOD PIZZA REPRESENTATIVE COULDN'T MAKE IT

TODAY SO THEIR NOMINATOR HAS GRACIOUSLY AGREED TO ACCEPT THE CERTIFICATE ON THEIR BEHALF AND DELIVER IT TO THEM LATER.

SO CAITLYN WOGBERG OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES, SHE'S THE ONE WHO NOMINATED MOD PIZZA. AND ON THE SLIDE IS A PHOTO OF A YOUNG WOMAN WEARING DISPOSABLE GLOVES AS WELL AS TWO MOD EMPLOYEES WEARING GLASSES AND HOLDING A PIZZA BOX SMILING FOR THE CAMERA. I'M SORRY. I'M NOT LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER WHEN I'M DOING THAT.

ALL RIGHT. OKAY. AND PLEASE HOLD ONTO YOUR PROGRAMS. OUR WONDERFUL PROGRAM ASSISTANT EMILY -- LET'S HEAR IT FOR EMILY WHO DID ALL OF THE PROGRAMS, APPOINTMENT POWERPOINT. EMILY'S AMAZING. BUT I USE IT TO BECOME A PATRON OF THESE BUSINESSES. IF THEY'RE GOING TO HIRE AND PROMOTE AND RETAIN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THAT'S A PLACE THAT I WANT TO FREQUENT OFTEN. FEEL FREE TO TAKE YOUR PROGRAM HOME WITH YOU.

SO OUR NEXT NOMINEE IS RESTORATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY AND THEY WERE NOMINATED BY TRACY MCCLENNEN OF SKCAC INDUSTRIES. YOU WANT TO COME UP AND GRAB YOUR CERTIFICATE? SO ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATE IS BRIAN WILLCUT. OH, YOU LOOK DIFFERENT.

>> I'M JANELL WILLCUT.

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: THE NEXT IS MY PLACE HOTEL VANCOUVER WHO WAS NOMINATED BY JULIE SMITH FROM KEYS TO ADVANCEMENT. A REPRESENTATIVE OF MY PLACE COULDN'T MAKE IT TODAY SO THEIR CERTIFICATE WILL BE MAILED TO THEM. SO THANK YOU. SO THE 2022 SMALL PRIVATE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR IS RESTORATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY.

(APPLAUSE)

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: RESTORATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY WHILE NEW TO SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT IS DEDICATED TO CONTINUED GROWTH WITHIN THEIR ENTIRE COMPANY TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EMPLOYEE EDUCATION TO FURTHER PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION FOR ALL. NOMINATOR TRACY MCCLENNEN SAYS AS AN EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST, THIS PROCESS FOR HIRING A NEW EMPLOYER SEEING

THE GOOD OUTCOMES OF HIRING SOMEONE THAT RECEIVES SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN VERY REWARDING AND SEE THAT THEY WANT TO SPREAD THEIR GREAT EXPERIENCE THROUGHOUT THE COMPANY AND IN OTHER STATES AND GIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO OTHERS IS AS WELL. TO KNOW AND SEE HOW THEY WORK WITH MY CLIENT AND GIVE HIM NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT HIS JOB WITH GOALS TO EXPAND HIS WORK EXPERIENCE IS WHY I CHOSE RMC FOR THIS NOMINATION. PLEASE HELP ME WELCOME JANELL AND CONGRATULATIONS

(APPLAUSE)

>> THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH. RESTORATION MANAGEMENT WE'VE BEEN TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE JOHN JOIN OUR TEAM. HE'S BEEN A TRUE BLESSING AND AN INTEGRAL PART TO MAKE US SUCCESSFUL IN OUR OFFICE SPACE SO WE APPRECIATE THE NOMINATION BY TRACY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY, MANY MORE YEARS WITH JOHN WITH US. THANK YOU.

(APPLAUSE)

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: NOW WE KNOW WHERE TO GET ANY RESTORATIONS YOU NEED. I WAS LOOKING FOR MY READER GLASSES. IF YOU SEE ME DOING THIS, IT'S LIKE THAT THING WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN YOUR FORTIES ONE DAY AND ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU CAN'T READ YOUR PILL BOTTLES ANYMORE. OUR NEXT AWARD IS MEDIUM PRIVATE EMPLOYER. SO IT'S MY HONOR TO RECOGNIZE THE NOMINEES. JCPENNEY WAS NOMINATED BY GRETA WILLIAMS OF WASHINGTON VOCATIONAL SERVICES AND SAFEWAY ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS WAS NOMINATED BY RICH HALLER OF SALES WASHINGTON. ON THE SLIDE IS A PHOTO OF A WOMAN HOLDING UP A SHIRT ON A HANGER AND A PHOTO OF TWO PEOPLE SITTING AT A TABLE AND SMILING FOR THE CAMERA. ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATES ARE TRACY HOOVER FROM JCPENNEY AND KEITH HELLMAN FROM SAFEWAY. GREAT JOB.

(APPLAUSE)

OUR NEXT NOMINEE IS THOMPSON HOTELS. THEY WERE NOMINATED BY PAULA BOUWER OF WASHINGTON VOCATIONAL SERVICES. ON THE SLIDE IS A PHOTO OF TWO

EMPLOYEES COMMUNICATING VIA SIGN LANGUAGE. ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATE IS
BRYNN EDEN. SHE'S GOT SUPER COOL HAIR.

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: OKAY. THE 2022 MEDIUM PRIVATE EMPLOYER OF THE
YEAR IS JCPENNEY MARYSVILLE.

(APPLAUSE)

JCPENNEY MARYSVILLE IS COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL EMPLOYEES
REGARDLESS OF RACE, SEX OR DISABILITY. THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL IN RECRUITING
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES BECAUSE OF THE COMMUNITY VALUES AND THE
POLICIES THEY FOLLOW WHICH PLACE COMMUNITY FIRST. STAFF AND MANAGEMENT
UNDERSTAND THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM ARE VALUED AND THEY TRAIN TO
ACCOMMODATE EACH PERSON'S UNIQUE LEARNING STYLE AND CAPITALIZE ON
INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS. JCPENNEY CREATES A WELCOMING INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT
FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES AND CLEARLY CARES ABOUT HOW THEIR EMPLOYEES FEEL ABOUT
THEIR JOBS. THEIR EFFORTS TO LISTEN TO THEIR TEAM AND PUT WORDS INTO
ACTION IS EVIDENT IN THE ADVANCES THEIR EMPLOYEES MAKE AT WORK. PLEASE
HELP ME WELCOME TRACY HOOVER. THEY ALREADY DID 2? OH, I'M SORRY.

>> YOU KNOW I WAS BLESSED THAT THE LADY THAT SENT OUT PICTURES WHEN I
STARTED AT THE STORE GOT TO TAKE ON A WONDERFUL PERSON --

>> JANET BRUCKSHEN: CAN I GET YOU THE MIC? I DON'T THINK EVERYONE CAN
HEAR YOU.

>> I WAS SAYING THAT I WAS BLESSED WHEN I CAME TO THIS STORE BECAUSE THIS
WONDERFUL LADY WAS ALREADY THERE. SHE HELPS WITH EVERYTHING. SHE'S
AWESOME. AND THEN WE GOT ANOTHER LADY. SO WE'VE HAD A COUPLE LADIES THAT
HAVE JUST BEEN A BLESSING AND I DON'T REGRET HAVING THEM AT THE STORE.
THEY MAKE MY LIFE BETTER. HONESTLY WE DO THIS BECAUSE IT'S GREAT AND THEY
MAKE OUR CUSTOMERS HAPPY AND THEY MAKE OUR DAYS HAPPY. YOU WERE TALKING
ABOUT THE PURPLE BIN. WE HAVE A LADY WHO CAME TO WORK FOR US WHO JUST SHE
WASN'T SURE SHE COULD DO ANYTHING. SHE WAS AFRAID. AND HER HELPERS AND
ALL HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET HER TO HELP CUSTOMERS OPEN UP JCPENNEY CREDIT

CARD AND SHE WAS AFRAID OF IT. AS SOON AS SHE OPENED ONE, SHE'S NOT THE ONE WHO CAME RUNNING TO TELL ME SHE DID IT. IT WAS ALL MY ASSOCIATES. OH, MY GOSH CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE DID THIS. IT'S SO GREAT TO SEAT SMILE SHE BRINGS TO EVERYBODY'S FACE. WE LOVE HAVING THEM.

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: THANK YOU. CONGRATULATIONS. I BETTER BE BETTER AT LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER AND SEEING WHAT'S GOING ON. OUR NEXT CATEGORY IS LARGE PRIVATE EMPLOYER. SO IT IS MY HONOR TO RECOGNIZE THE NOMINEES. ABM BUSINESS & INDUSTRY WAS NOMINATED BY PAULA BOUWER OF WASHINGTON VOCATIONAL SERVICES. ON A SLIDE IS A PHOTO OF THREE EMPLOYEES WEARING POLO SHIRTS STANDING IN FRONT OF A WALL AND SMILING FOR THE CAMERA. ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATE IS LINDA CAMPBELL

(APPLAUSE)

THE 2022 LARGE PRIVATE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR IS ABM BUSINESS & INDUSTRY. CONGRATULATIONS. YAY.

(APPLAUSE)

ABM IS A STRONG LEADER FOR HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. THEY STRIVE TO HIRE THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT JOBS. THEY'VE ALWAYS HAD A WELCOMING OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. THEY NETWORK WITH SEVERAL OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE INCLUDED IN THEIR HIRING FARES, ET CETERA. ABM JANITORIAL HAS BEEN HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THEY'VE BEEN PROFICIENT IN HIRING THOSE WHO ARE DEAF INTO FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME CLEANING POSITIONS. ONE OF THE CLIENTS WON EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AND WAS SO EXCITED. EVEN THOUGH THE CLIENT HAD TO IMPROVE ON THE WORK PERFORMANCE, THEY STILL RECOGNIZED HER FOR HER HARD WORKING ABILITIES. PLEASE HELP ME WELCOME LINDA AND HER COLLEAGUE.

(APPLAUSE)

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THIS IS VERY HONORING AND REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH. I PERSONALLY WORK WITH ANN A LOT AND SHE HAS
CHANGED SO MUCH. SHE'S A VERY STRONG WORKER AND SHE ENTERTAINS ME A LOT.
WHENEVER I'M STRESSED OUT I ALWAYS GO BACK TO HER BECAUSE WE STARTED
UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER IN THE BEGINNING IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME. PAUL A
SHE'S BEEN GREAT HELPFUL AS WELL. SHE GAVE ME THIS PAPER THAT HAS SIGN
REMEMBERS AND I WAS ABLE TO LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER AND ALSO I
CALL ON THE PHONE TO HEALTH AND WE TALK A LOT WITH THEM. SHE MAKES MY DAY
EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK AND THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME HERE

(APPLAUSE)

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: CONGRATULATIONS. OUR NEXT AWARD CATEGORY IS
SMALL NON-PROFIT EMPLOYER AND IT'S MY HONOR TO RECOGNIZE THE NOMINEES.
SPECTRUM STUDIOS WAS NOMINATED BY BAIL I BRAKE OF BRAKE THROUGH BY THE.
ON THE SLIDE IS A PHOTO OF A MAN STANDING IN FRONT OF A PIECE OF MACHINERY
AS HE WORKS. UNFORTUNATELY A SPECTRUM REPRESENTATIVE COULDN'T JOIN US
TODAY SO THEIR CERTIFICATE WILL BE MAILED TO THEM. SO CONGRATULATIONS FOR
BEING NOMINATED.

(APPLAUSE)

AND BY THE WAY, THE 2022 SMALL NON-PROFIT EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR IS SPECTRUM
STUDIOS SO CONGRATULATIONS.

(APPLAUSE)

THEY ARE KNOWN FOR CREATING OPPORTUNITY AND ENRICHMENT FOR YOUNG ADULTS ON
THE AUTISM SPECTRUM. THEY WORK WITH EMPLOYEES TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE
COMFORTABLE IN THEIR WORK SPACE. THEY ARE CHECKED ON TO MAKE SURE THEY

ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. IF THEY SEE THAT HELP IS NEEDED, THEY'RE GENTLY GUIDE BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK. ONE PARENT OF AN EMPLOYEE WROTE I NORMALLY REFER TO MY SON AS BEING SOFTSPOKEN OR A MAN OF FEW WORDS. BUT THE DAYS WHEN HE COMES HOME FROM SPECTRUM IT'S LIKE HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON. HE STANDS TALLER, HAS A BOUNCE IN HIS STEP, IS SURPRISINGLY VERBAL AND HE HAS GAINED CONFIDENCE. THEIR EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE LIKE MY SON AND THEIR UNENDING COMPASSION IS SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO SEE MORE OF IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY.

SO WE'RE HONORED TO ACCEPT THIS TROPHY ON SPECTRUM'S BEHALF AND WE'LL MAKE SURE THEY GET TROPHY. THANK YOU

(APPLAUSE)

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: OUR NEXT AWARD IS LARGE NON-PROFIT EMPLOYER AND IT'S MY HONOR TO RECOGNIZE THE NOMINEES. OKAY. SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WAS NOMINATED BY ANDY SONG OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT. ON THE SLIDE IS A FEET OVER THE SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOGO. ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATE IS ALICIA THOMPSON.

(APPLAUSE)

AND THE 2022 LARGE NON-PROFIT EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR IS SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

(APPLAUSE)

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: DR. THOMPSON HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE LEADER IN MAKING CHANGE TO SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOR HEALTH. SHE GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND TO NOT ONLY SUPPORT AND PROMOTE HER STAFF WITH DISABILITIES BUT TO FIGHT FOR EQUITABLE CHANGE FOR PATIENTS ACROSS THE STATE WITH DISABILITIES. SAYS NOMINATE ERRAND I SONG, ALYSHA HAS DISPLAYED A PASSION FOR SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS WHEN CONSIDERING EMPLOYMENT AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE UNDER HER PROGRAM. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SOMEONE IN

UPPER LEADERSHIP GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO DEFEND THOSE WHO ARE NEURO DIVERGENT AND/OR IDENTIFY WITH A DISABILITY. SO CONGRATULATIONS ALYSHA.

(APPLAUSE)

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH. I'M REALLY HONORED TO BE HERE AMONGST SO MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS WHO ARE DOING SUCH GREAT WORK AROUND OUR STATE. THANK YOU ANDY FOR THE NOMINATION. I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO GET TO WORK ON PSYCHIATRY AT SEATTLE CHILDREN'S WHERE WE SERVE A WIDE RANGE OF FOLKS, MANY FOLKS WITH NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. AND IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME THAT WE HAVE A WORKFORCE THAT LOOKS LIKE OUR POPULATION SO THAT WAY WE CAN BETTER SERVE PEOPLE AND REALLY HEAR FROM PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT THEIR NEEDS ARE RATHER THAN MAKE ASSUMPTIONS. SO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING ME TODAY AND PRESENTING ME WITH THIS AWARD.

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: CONGRATULATIONS. OKAY. OUR NEXT AWARD IS YOUTH EMPLOYER AND IT'S MY HONOR TO RECOGNIZE THE NOMINEES. WALGREEN'S SEDRO-WOOLLEY WAS NOMINATED BY JULIE HANDY OF WASHINGTON VOCATIONAL SERVICES. ON THE SLIDE IS A FEET OVER BOBBIE AND A CLIENT STANDING WITH A SHOPPING CART. ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATE IS BOBBIE EAKRIGHT.

(APPLAUSE)

I HOPE I PRONOUNCED YOUR LAST NAME CORRECTLY. DON'T GO FAR. ALL RIGHT. THE 2022 YOUTH EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR IS WALGREEN'S SEDRO-WOOLLEY

(APPLAUSE)

WALGREEN'S IN SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WASHINGTON, HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF DISABILITY AWARENESS BOTH LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY FOR YEARS. STORE MANAGER BOBBIE EAKRIGHT PROVIDED A FULL DAY OF MOCK INTERVIEW SUPPORT THIS YEAR, AND SHE GAVE VALUABLE FEEDBACK TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED. IT ALSO HELPED SOLIDIFY IN STUDENTS' MINDS THAT SHE IS AN APPROACHABLE AND CARING MANAGER. WALGREEN'S DOESN'T JUST RUN A COUPLE OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF DIVERSITY INCLUSION. THEY ACTUALLY PRACTICE IT AT THE LOCAL

LEVEL. THIS IS EVIDENT BY HOW WELCOME THE STORE IS TO OUR STUDENTS AND HOW MANY OF OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN HIRED OVER THE YEARS. SO CONGRATULATIONS BOBBIE.

(APPLAUSE)

>> SO AS SOMEONE WHO HAD ISSUES AS A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY OF HAVING A HEARING DISABILITY AND HAVING PEOPLE HELP ME, I FEEL THAT IT WAS MY DUTY TO AS I GREW UP TO HELP OTHERS. AND I FIND IT REWARDING WHEN THEY CAN ACHIEVE NOT ONLY THEIR GOAL BUT ALSO GO ABOVE WHAT THEY THINK THEY CAN REALLY DO. BECAUSE MAJORITY OF THEM, PEOPLE THINK THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING. THEY CAN BECOME MANAGERS. THEY CAN BECOME LEADERS AND THEY CAN BE A HUGE ASSET TO OUR WORLD. THANK YOU.

>> ELAINE STEFANOWICZ: CONGRATULATIONS. ALL RIGHT. AND BARRY IS GOING TO COME UP AFTER I GO DOWN I'M ASSUMING AND GET SOME COLLEAGUES REMARKS. SO THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR BEING HERE TODAY. AND AGAIN, VISIT THESE BUSINESSES.

>> BARRY LONG: IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS LIKE THE HOTEL DIDN'T HAVE A RAMP AND WOULDN'T SO WE HAD TO GET ONE AT THE LAST MOMENT AND IT'S KIND OF SKETCH AS YOU ALL SAW BUT IT GOT US UP HERE. WE WERE A LITTLE NERVOUS BUT WE SURVIVED IT. EMILY, WOULD YOU MIND HANDING ME THOSE SHEETS. THANK YOU. SO A COUPLE THINGS IN CLOSING. I JUST WANT TO THANK AGAIN EVERYBODY WHO IS HERE, ALL THE RECIPIENTS, ALL THE AWARD WINNERS. I'M GOING TO FLIP THROUGH THE AWARD WINNERS REALLY QUICKLY ONE MORE TIME. DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MARY SABETTO, SMALL PRIVATE EMPLOYER RESTORATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY --

SORRY. START OVER. THEY'RE EDUCATING ME. I'VE ONLY BEEN SPEAKING FOR 30 YEARS AND EVERY TIME I'M LEARNING. SO THE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MARY SABETTO. SMALL PRIVATE EMPLOYER, RESTORATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY. MEDIUM PRIVATE EMPLOYER JCPENNEY MARYSVILLE. LARGE PRIVATE EMPLOYER ABM

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY.

SMALL NON-PROFIT EMPLOYER SPECTRUM STUDIOS. LARGE NON-PROFIT EMPLOYER, SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. YOUTH EMPLOYER WALGREEN'S SEDRO-WOOLLEY. I WANT TO THANK OUR SPONSORS QUICKLY, AUNTIE ANNE'S. YOU GOTTA HAVE THEIR PRETZELS IF YOU HAVEN'T. DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHAB. WASHINGTON STATE EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION. AND MICROSOFT. AND I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY ABOUT MICROSOFT, YOU SEE PART OF WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE IS TRYING TO EDUCATE REST OF THE WORLD AS TO WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW, THE ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS OF HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DOESN'T JUST BENEFIT THE PERSON WITH THE DISABILITY BUT IT BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMPANIES AROUND THAT PERSON. AND MICROSOFT ACTUALLY TOOK CHARGE OF THIS. SEE AT ONE POINT MICROSOFT HAS THESE LITTLE PRODUCTS THAT YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF, OFFICE, WORD, EXCEL. AND WHEN YOU GOT ONE OF THOSE PRODUCTS, YOU COULD CHOOSE TO THEN DOWNLOAD A SEPARATE WHATEVER, SOFTWARE ADD ON THAT HAD ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES THAT THEN WOULD WORK WITH THOSE PRODUCTS AND MICROSOFT DECIDED WHY WOULD WE MAKE THAT SOMETHING DIFFERENT WHEN WE CAN MAINSTREAM ACCESSIBILITY. AND THEY TOOK ALL OF THOSE ACCESSIBILITY ADD-ONS THAT WERE SOMETHING THAT NO ONE KNEW ABOUT EXCEPT FOR THOSE OF US THAT HAD DISABILITIES AND NEED THEM AND THEY JUST EMBED THEM INTO THEIR PRODUCT AND IT'S NOW PART OF THE MAIN PRODUCT. AND IT TOOK THE ACCESSIBILITY AND THE DISABILITY SIDE OF ACCESSIBILITY AND IT JUST MAINSTREAMED IT. AND THAT'S REALLY WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO, WHICH IS WHY THIS MONTH OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS IS GETTING ALL OF THOSE OTHER COMPANIES OUT THERE TO UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS OF MAIN STREAMING DISABILITY. SO WE BECOME PART OF THE EQUITY EQUATION. AND THAT'S REALLY WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU WHO ARE PART OF THIS. WE'RE JUST STARTING THIS WAIVE, JUST STARTING 30 YEARS AGO, THAT NOW THE REST OF THE COUNTRY IS STARTING TO FOLLOW SUIT TO WHAT WE HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME AND I SAY WE BECAUSE WE ARE ALL IN THIS ROOM

TOGETHER. WE ALL HAVE THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF EDUCATING THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW POWERFUL WHAT WE DO IS. SO I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU AGAIN FOR BEING HERE. ALL OF THE AWARD WINNERS, DO KNOW THAT COMING AT SOME POINT IN THE NEAR FUTURE YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO OLYMPIA AND COLLECTIVELY TOGETHER YOU WILL ALL GET TO MEET THE GOVERNOR IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND DO A GROUP PHOTO. I WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE STAFF OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE AND DISABILITY, OUR INTERPRETERS, CLOSED CAPTIONING, EVERYTHING WHO WAS PART OF THIS ON THE BACK END TO MAKE ALL OF THIS HAPPEN. WE'RE EXCITED TO TAKE WHAT WE'VE DONE TODAY AND MOVE IT IN A NEW DIRECTION AND MAKE IT EVEN MORE IMPACTFUL NEXT YEAR. EACH YEAR IT KEEPS GETTING BETTER. ALL OF THE RECIPIENTS AND AWARD WINNERS PLEASE COME OVER TO THIS SIDE OF THE ROOM BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO DO A GROUP PHOTO WITH EVERYBODY. AND I NOTICE IT'S TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR DAY. I KNOW YOU BLOCK OFF AN AFTERNOON. BUT I'M THANKING YOU FROM ME AND FROM THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE AND FROM NINE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR BEING HERE AND BECAUSE WE TRULY ARE CHANGING THE WORLD AND MAKING IT A BETTER PLACE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO. SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS SO WE'RE FOUR OR FIVE TIMES AS BIG NEXT YEAR. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

(APPLAUSE)

>> JANET BRUCKSHEN: IF WE COULD GET NOMINEES AND EVERYONE TO COME OVER HERE WE'RE GOING TO GET A PICTURE.

>> THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE A PICTURE FROM THE SECOND FLOOR AND THAT WAY EVERYBODY WILL BE IN IT. SO WE'LL GO OUT THERE IN THE ATRIUM.