Chair: Quinn Shearer

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           Jim Terry
           Andrew J. Tuck
           Scott Vanek

Enterprise Fellow: Rodney Hall

Emeritus: David McKenney
          E. Fay Pearce, Jr.
          John H. Weitnauer, Jr.
PROGRAM

Event Host: Russ Spencer, FOX 5 Atlanta

RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS
Lori Chase, IBERIABANK | First Horizon

VIDEO: “THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT”

OPENING REMARKS
Larry Gluth, BDI

RECOGNITION OF WORK ANNIVERSARIES
Tammy Stanley, Stanley Law Firm

LUMINARY OF THE YEAR
J & B Medical
David Essary, Accord Systems

LUMINARY OF THE YEAR
Aimee Copeland

FUND THE MISSION

LUMINARY OF THE YEAR
Kayla Rodriguez
Kylie Moore, BDI

LUMINARY OF THE YEAR
Diana Weidle
Peter Lauer, PEL Ventures

CLOSING REMARKS
Quinn Shearer, Adams Capital, Inc.
J&B Medical was established in 1996 and since has become one of the fastest growing and most successful medical distribution companies in the world. J&B Medical, a family owned business, carries over 50 years of industry experience and has thrived by combining top quality products, exceptional service and competitive pricing on medical supplies. J&B Medical is a Certified Women’s Business Enterprise by the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) and is a Michigan Certified Bronze Veteran Friendly Employer by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

The company has 16 different business enterprises and has customers in 48 states and 28 countries. This innovative company has brought many new ideas and solutions forward to delivery care and continues to strive to improve patient access and quality.

In 2015, J&B started its partnership with Bobby Dodd Institute to employ veterans and support its call center activities. The call center has since expanded from four agents to 80 agents and is currently located in a 19,102 square foot facility in College Park, GA.
Diana Weidle

Diana Wiedle is a native of Baltimore, Maryland and currently resides in Sandy Springs, GA. Diana is a living illustration of her favorite quote, “after every storm, comes a rainbow.” After suffering a traumatic brain disorder, she beat all odds thriving both socially and professionally.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations from Spring Hill College. Upon graduation, she moved to Sacramento, California and joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, an organization that matches youth leaders with paid service opportunities. After successfully completing a year with the volunteer corps, Diana moved back to Georgia and began her job search journey, which led her to Bobby Dodd Institute.

During her time at BDI, Diana received specialized job training and job connection services. She ultimately received job placement at Big Brothers Big Sisters as a receptionist. She is currently thriving in her role and enjoying the joys of independence and financial stability.

Diana’s passions include her faith and service, particularly volunteering with the less fortunate and children living with childhood cancer.
Kayla Rodriguez is originally from New York but has called Florida, Virginia and currently Georgia home. As a child, she was diagnosed with Asperger’s, but she prefers to identify as autistic. Kayla had difficulties in school and struggled to identify her passion for a career. After graduating high school, she made connections with autistic self-advocates and ultimately identified advocacy as her calling.

She’s currently living out her passion and calling, crediting programs and organizations such as Bobby Dodd Institute’s Ambassador Program, Autistic Self-Advocacy Atlanta and GALEND (Georgia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) for providing her with tools and resources to succeed in her advocacy efforts. Her advocacy doesn’t stop with autism.

Kayla is also a talented writer and speaker. She has spoken on several panels and recently won the Golden Goal Goldie Award for Young Community Advocate. Last year, she finished her first-ever work experience, a paid internship with the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. A type I diabetic and Puerto Rican, Kayla hopes to expand her advocacy to include these two areas in the future.
Aimee Copeland

Aimee Copeland is a psychotherapist, activist, competitive swimmer, and executive director of the Aimee Copeland Foundation (ACF). Aimee founded ACF after a zip-lining accident in 2012, in which she was hospitalized and diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis—a flesh-eating, bacterial infection. As a result of the infection, doctors had to amputate both of her hands, her right foot and her entire left leg. While recovering in her hospital bed, Aimee birthed ACF.

Before the zip-lining accident, Aimee was extremely active—an avid rock climber and runner. Inspired rather than limited by what she calls her “new situation,” she set out to re-connect with her first love: nature. Through ACF, Aimee has developed a safe space for individuals with disabilities to connect with self, the community and the Earth.

In addition to her work with ACF, Aimee is also the owner and operator of Grant Park Counseling Group in Atlanta, GA. She holds dual masters in psychology and social work and attended the University of Georgia for undergrad.
Past Luminaries

Darden’s Delights (2019)
Schkaylle Miller (2019)
Ernie Ward, UPS (2019)

Past Luminaries
(formerly Employee of the Year)

Jeff Piazza (2018)
Annette Andrews (2017)
Gloria Richardson (2016)
Adam Mays (2015)
Catherine White (2014)
Tonya Williams (2013)
Larry Williamson (2012)
Karen Lefstead (2011)
Lamar Blessett (2010)

Past Luminaries
(formerly Employer of the Year)

Sodexo (2018)
Pollo Tropical (2017)
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (2016)
The TJX Companies (2015)
Corporate Sports Unlimited, Inc. (2014)
AT&T (2013)
Convergent Outsourcing (2012)
The World of Coca-Cola (2011)
Publix Super Markets (2010)
DeKalb Medical (2009)
Autotrader.com (2008)
Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center (2007)
Panera Bread (2006)
Spectrum Industries (2005)

Past Luminaries
(formerly Circle of Excellence)

Bobby Dodd, posthumously (2019)
Sarah Kennedy & Nancy Rizor (2018)
Cassie S. Mitchell, Ph.D. (2016)
Rafael I. San Miguel (2015)
Phillip E. Miles (2014)
Jennifer Broom (2013)
Jerry Weiner (2012)
Ross Mason (2011)
E. Fay Pearce, Jr. (2010)
Robert L. “Bobby” Mays (2009)
David McKenney (2008)
Don Chapman (2007)
Alana & James Shepherd (2006)
Robert J. Freeman (2005)
John A Conant (2002)
BDI is proud to recognize the anniversaries of individuals in our Supported Employment program.

We honor them for their commitment and hard work!

5+ Years
Daniel Bassett
Tremaine Caslin
Gabriel Fair
Philip Johnson
Marius Mabry
Mychale Payton

10+ Years
Michael Barber
Billy Bivins
Ambria Camp
Kenneth Campbell
Brian Capps
Keica Curtis
Dorothy Dupuy
Freddie Fed
Frank Harris
Michael Harper
Tekelia Hayes
Jeremy Hector
Eric Home
Philip Johnson
Wanda Laye
Stephen Lewis
Avery Pass
Demitri Powell
Andrew Smith

20+ Years
Phyllis Craddock
BDI Employs

BDI offers a continuum of support for individuals with disabilities of all ages, stages and levels of need. We stabilize families in crisis by illuminating the path forward. Through our Empowers programming, we help individuals achieve confidence, independence and hope in their future.

Programs:

Job & Career Programs: Evaluation & Career Planning; specialized job training; job connection services; customized supported—employment

Family Support Programs: Family advocacy; benefits consulting; Georgia Community Trust; resources coordination

Outreach Programs: Intensive case management; life skills training; behavioral intervention; community integration

BDI Empowers

BDI offers a wide range of managed business services to meet the organizations’ specific needs. We partner with companies, nonprofits and government agencies to create jobs for those with differing abilities, all while providing high-quality solutions.

Services:

Facilities Management: BDI provides end-to-end facilities management including janitorial services, grounds maintenance, painting, building repairs, stocking and general upkeep. Our experienced and meticulous approach allows you to spend more time focused on your staff and customers

Administrative Services: BDI offers secure mailroom management and other administrative services. You can trust BDI to manage your organization’s sensitive areas like mail, security and data entry. Your privacy and security is our top priority.

Call Centers & Switchboard: BDI has been a seasoned leader in call center and 24/7 switchboard operations for more than 22 years. We offer comprehensive and efficient services that operate from a customer-first perspective.

Supply Chain & Logistics: BDI offers climate-controlled warehouses and high-quality storage in a safe and secure environment. Our customized packaging and fulfillment solutions give you peace of mind knowing your customers will receive their shipments without surprises.
You can create opportunities to empower and employ individuals with differing abilities.

To help illuminate the possibilities in disabilities text Jobs1 to 243-725 or visit bobbydodd.org/give.

Your gift will help people uncover new ways to grow and thrive.

When you find the right person for the right job, amazing things can happen.

Find out how you can partner with BDI to employ talent: contact us at 678-365-0071 or info@bobbydodd.org
The mission of Bobby Dodd Institute is to empower people with differing abilities to maximize their potential by securing economic self-sufficiency, independence and inclusion within their communities.