

## For Immediate Release

April 2007

### For More Information or Photos Contact:

Dawn Schwartz

Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JA-NJ)

973-533-1133

dschwartz@ja-nj.org

## NEW JERSEY BUSINESS HALL OF FAME MAKES HISTORY

Recognizing Today's Role Models . . . Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders . . .

### SPONSORED BY VERIZON

**Newark** - On Thursday, April 19, 2007 nearly 500 business executives and professionals, along with New Jersey educators and politicians, came together to celebrate and recognize three of New Jersey's top business leaders and to support the Junior Achievement (JA) cause at the inaugural New Jersey Business Hall of Fame (NJBHOF) event. This black-tie optional affair was held at the historical Mezzanine of 744 Broad Street, Newark, NJ and raised more than \$190,000 for the JA-NJ cause. This former JA-NJ Hall of Fame event is now the largest fundraiser in JA-NJ history. JA-NJ is proud to own the New Jersey Business Hall of Fame and hold this annual event to recognize NJ's top business leaders who also value giving back to the community.

The NJBHOF is the premier platform in recognizing the ultimate role models to today's youth. It is for this reason that the JA organization established this business hall of fame and event for New Jersey. The 2007 award recipients were Pamela Craig, CFO of Accenture; Kurt Landgraf, President and CEO of ETS; and Paul M. Pantozzi, Chairman and CEO of The Provident Bank.

The event started at 6:00 pm with a cocktail reception and an exclusive silent auction that was followed by a sit-down dinner by Frungillo Catering and program that included emcee and keynote speaker, Michelle Caruso-Cabrera of CNBC, a presentation of awards to the 2007 honorees, and a high-end live auction sponsored by Marriott and Continental Airlines. JA elementary school and high school students from Newark participated in the evening's program as ambassadors, presenters and entertainers.

Michelle Caruso-Cabrera is a co-anchor of "Worldwide Exchange" (M-F, 4-6 a.m. ET), CNBC's first global daily business news program utilizing the resources of CNBC, CNBC Europe and CNBC Asia. She also joins Liz Claman for the second hour of CNBC's "Morning Call" (M-F, 11a.m. - 12 p.m. ET). Prior to "Worldwide Exchange," Caruso-Cabrera anchored CNBC's "Wake Up Call" (M-F, 5-7 a.m. ET).

JA-NJ, the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA), and The Star-Ledger were the 2007 NJBHOF event partners. JA-NJ received the proceeds from this premier fundraising event. Verizon was the title sponsor. Platinum sponsors were HSBC and Accenture, and the other lead supporters included ATC, Allstate, Bank of New York, CIT, Cogswell Realty Group, Deloitte, ETS, Goldman Sachs, The Provident Bank, Lockheed Martin, and PSEG.

Comments from the honorees and event leadership:

"This premier event is so strongly connected to the JA mission," said Catherine Milone-Richards, President of JA-NJ. "JA brings the real world to the classroom and after-school settings with hands-on experiences that teach young people about the economics of life, helping to mold and produce our future workforce and leaders."

"I am honored to have been recognized in this way and to be associated with such a terrific group and mission," said Pamela Craig, Accenture CFO, and 2007 NJBHOF laureate. "I'm both personally and professionally committed to the goals of Junior Achievement; its dedication to inspiring and educating New Jersey's youth is admirable and something I

am very proud to support. I hope by example young people will see that a challenging career in business is not only very possible, but well worth the pursuit."

"I am honored to be inducted into the NJBHOF. The Provident Bank believes strongly in the value of education. Throughout our history, we have supported grammar schools, college scholarships, financial literacy instruction, and countless other programs. Fostering the personal and professional growth of our employees through training has always been a priority to me and the organization I have served for more than 40 years," Paul M. Pantozzi, Chair and CEO, The Provident Bank and 2007 NJBHOF laureate.

"Being honored for something that I am so passionate about is a thrill for me and for ETS. ETS and Junior Achievement have a lot in common as K-12 education providers," said Kurt Landgraf, CEO and President, ETS and 2007 NJBHOF Laureate.

"We look forward to working with this year's recipients as we partner to create new and exciting opportunities for tomorrow's leaders," said William Foshay, Verizon's Senior Vice-President and General Manager, NJ Region. "Working together, companies like Verizon and Junior Achievement have a common goal to offer promising young people a new world of possibilities, opportunities and challenges that will help them strive and succeed in the global economy."

"This is a very exciting time for Junior Achievement of New Jersey. It was time for us to take our Annual Hall of Fame fundraiser up a notch to make it NJ's premier business hall of fame event," said Patrick Cozza, Group Executive, HSBC and JA-NJ, State Board Chair. "By partnering with organizations like NJBIA and The Star-Ledger, and honoring such quality people like Paul, Pam and Kurt, we're accomplishing that."

Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JA-NJ) is dedicated to creating business education partnerships (Biz-Ed Partners) for the state of New Jersey through its K-12 economic education and financial literacy programs by touching 27,000 students this school year. JA-NJ is constantly looking for and developing new partners to grow its student outreach. For local information, visit <http://nj.ia.org>.

#### HONOREE INQUIRIES

ETS - Scott Nelson for honoree Kurt Landgraf at 609-683-2490

The Provident Bank - Jean Quinn for honoree Paul Pantozzi at 201-869-7555

Accenture - Justin Model for honoree Pamela Craig at 917-452-3715

CNBC - Katherine Guirales for Emcee/Keynote Speaker Michelle Caruso-Cabrera at [Katherine.Guirales@nbcuni.com](mailto:Katherine.Guirales@nbcuni.com)