

Industries for the Blind honors employees, supporters

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind (IFB) recently honored its employees, volunteers and customers for their exceptional contributions to the organization's success in providing jobs, training and services for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Mike McBee was named IFB's Direct Labor Employee of the Year. McBee works in IFB's Markers Department, where he operates highlighter and marker machines. Growing up legally blind with a condition known as Nystagmus, McBee lost both his parents at an early age and turned to selling drugs in his teens. At 29, he was arrested and served eight years in prison, during which time he participated in community outreach efforts with at-risk children about making the right decisions. In prison, Mike also connected with IFB through a work release program and when he was released in 2005, IFB offered him a job as a full-time employee - his first job at age 37. Today, he is a proud and involved father of two girls, ages 19 and 16. His work performance is exceptional and he is recognized by his peers as a leader and mentor.

Kathryn Garner received IFB's Volunteer of the Year Award, for the profound impact she has had on the organization during her nearly two decades of service. Since 1993,



Mike McBee, right, receives his award from IFB Executive Chair Dan Boucher.



Kathryn Garner receives an honor from IFB Executive Director David Horton, left, and Dan Boucher.



Lynn Shields



Ann Joyner

Garner has served IFB as a Board Member, Board Chair and Foundation Council Member. She was the driving force behind the opening of TAD's (Training & Development) Room named in honor of her late son William "Tad" Homan, and led the effort behind Tracy's Little Red School House that opened on IFB's campus earlier this spring. Garner is well-known throughout Winston-Salem as an inspiring community volunteer, and to honor her charitable efforts, IFB also announced the renaming of its Volunteer of the Year Award as the

Kathryn Garner Volunteer of the Year Award.

Lynn Shields was awarded IFB's Career Achiever Award. Shields is the Low Vision Technician with IFB's Community Low Vision Center in Winston-Salem, providing training and support on a variety of assistive technology devices for people who are blind or visually impaired. Legally blind, Shields joined IFB in 2007, working in the packaging and assembly operations before being

promoted to her current position in 2009.

Ann Joyner of Winston-Salem received IFB's Delmer Wall Award for her exceptional efforts to support IFB's mission. Joyner, a Contract Manager, serves several roles across the organization including as IFB's ISO 9001 and 14001 internal auditor, member of the IFB Power Team, and volunteer for IFB's Student Enrichment Experience.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) received IFB's Customer of the Year Award.

IFB is the nation's largest employer of people who are blind with more than 400 employees producing a broad portfolio of products from eyeglasses and parachutes to mattresses and tactical gear used by the armed forces.

Crosby Scholars earn scholarships

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Five students were awarded scholarships at the 8th annual Breakfast of Champions earlier this month. The event was held prior to the Crosby Scholars Invitational at Bermuda Run.

The guest speakers at the event were Dr. Kenneth Peacock, chancellor of Appalachian State University and Anson Dorrance, head women's soccer coach at UNC-Chapel Hill. More than 300 golf sponsors, donors, volunteers and celebrities attended the breakfast and golf tournament. West Forsyth's Meredith Welty, the daughter of Paul and Penny Welty, took home the \$1,200 Les and Evelyn Riley Scholarship, which goes to a graduating Crosby Scholar senior who demonstrates academic achievement, actively participates in community service and extracurricular activities and clearly described the impact of a significant experience in his or her life in a written essay.

Reagan High's Hannah Goulding, the child of Jon and Lynne Goulding, received the \$1,500 Fulton Carolina Medal, which goes to an exceptional Crosby Scholar who will enroll at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The \$1,200 Mommie J



Submitted Photo

From left: Hannah Goulding, Maddie Landers, Michael Sakano, Bonnie Ballard, Thomas Keshian and Meredith Welty.

Scholarship went to East Forsyth's Michael Sakano, the son of Van and Ryoichi Sakano. It goes to a Crosby Scholar who actively participates in extracurricular activities or part-time employment and clearly expresses in an essay how a special friendship has helped shape his/her life.

The winners of the Jessica Hill Davis Memorial Scholarship are Reynolds High's Thomas Keshian, the son of Rich and Nancy Keshian; East's Bonnie Ballard, the daughter of Ann Ballard; and Reagan's Madison Tedrow, the daughter of Mark and Martina

Tedrow.

The recipients of this scholarship must hold a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher, enroll at a North Carolina school and complete requirements of the Crosby Scholar Program. Thomas will attend Wake Forest; Bonnie is headed to UNC Chapel Hill, and Madison will attend Appalachian State.

The Crosby Scholars is a unique nonprofit college access program through which Forsyth County public school students grades 6-12 prepare academically, financially and personally for successful college admission.



Photos by Layla Garmes

Dr. McCarter talks with Michelle Cook, executive director of the WSSU Foundation.

McCarter

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her 'directionally challenged' mother is always the person people approach to ask for directions.

"She has the appearance or the presence of someone that always knows what's going on," she said.

Though McCarter's retirement sparked sadness in many of her colleagues, for Sonja, it was a joyous moment, one that has been a long time coming.

"I am kind of happy she's retiring," she confessed. "She's happy, she's well, her health is good and I want her to enjoy her retirement. I want her to enjoy her life. She truly has deserved it."

McCarter has seen many changes during her tenure at WSSU, from infrastructure to programming. She says one of her proudest accomplishments



Associate Provost Doria Stitts and Provost Brenda Allen speak about Dr. McCarter.



is helping to implement master's, and later, doctoral programs at the university. She told the audience she doesn't know yet how she will spend her retirement, but Reaves made certain she will remain a presence in the Rams family, by presenting her with a pair of tickets to the chancellor's box at the CIAA basketball tournament good for the next five

years. McCarter thanked those present for their love and support over the course of her lengthy career.

"This has been a very good experience for me," she said. "I never thought of coming to Winston-Salem State as work because my work and my life were so intertwined over the years."

THE CHRONICLE

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FAN FEST ON FOURTH

- FREE EVENT @ FOOTHILLS BREWING
- LIVE MUSIC FROM THE DICKENS
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- KIDS ZONE WITH INFLATABLES
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