

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No. 4a

Date of Meeting April 27, 2010

DATE: April 12, 2010

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Marjorie Hillson, Senior Manager, Diversity and Consulting Services
Kristal Roberts, Senior Organizational Development Consultant

SUBJECT: Special Order of Business Women's Outstanding Achievement Award

BACKGROUND

The Port of Seattle Women's Initiative also began in 2001, with the following purpose:

"To advance the mission of the Port by enhancing the inclusion, capability and equity of the women who work here."

Under the leadership of Kristal Roberts, the Women's Initiative has sponsored periodic retreats to discuss issues related to the mission statement. Products of these retreats have included founding of the Port's administrative professionals network, known as "ASAP" and creation of the Port's mentoring program (open to both men and women). In 2007, the Women's Initiative launched an annual celebration of women's accomplishments at the Port which takes place in conjunction with Women's History Month in March.

In 2010, twenty-four Port women were nominated for the Women's Outstanding Achievement Award, and a total of five nominees (two were nominated as a team) were selected by a panel of past nominees for special recognition based on their exceptional contributions to the Port's success during the preceding year.

The women honored are as follows:

1. Stephanie Jones Stebbins, Senior Manager, Seaport Environmental

Stephanie received two nominations, both of which lauded her excellent qualities as a leader and as someone who represents the Port at community events. Particularly noted was Stephanie's role in creating and implementing the Port's Northwest Clean Air Strategy. One of her nominators noted that "by observation we all see a woman, mother and leader of grace, accomplishment, vision and hard work."

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2. Jennifer Lewis (Health and Safety) and Desiree Prewitt (Human Resources and Development) were nominated as a team for their role as co-global systems administrators for the Port's Learning Management System.

According to their nominator, "Desiree's and Jennifer's contributions have been instrumental to the success of this implementation....it was their joint work and true partnership, under the guidance of a governance team, that has made a difference to the organization." It's worth noting that the Port's LMS launch was nominated by the vendor, Plateau, for a "best launch of the year award," and was the runaway winner when participants in Plateau's annual conference voted. The other finalist was a multi-national company with more than 20,000 employees.

3. Elizabeth Morrison, Senior Manager, Finance and Budget

Elizabeth was cited for her "outstanding leadership in working with the Port's financing team, airport and project management staff, the rental car companies, and the Port Commission to develop and implement a revised financing strategy that led to a successful bond sale in June, 2009." This bond sale allowed the rental car facility project to restart after construction was suspended late in 2008. In addition, Elizabeth's nominator noted that "she leads with a quiet humility while consistently acknowledging the accomplishments of others."

4. Deb Sorenson, Sr. Aviation Financial Analyst

A thirty-one year Port employee, Deb works on pursuing grant opportunities for the Airport. Her work on an FAA grant in 2008 and 2009 was of particular note. In 2008, the FAA indicated that the Port would receive a \$20 million grant for the rehabilitation of Runway 16C. When the grant was issued in 2009, it was for \$18 million. Deb immediately started discussions with the FAA that ultimately led to an additional grant of \$3.9 million. In the end, the Port received more grant money (a total of \$21.9 million) than anticipated. Deb's nominator also noted that "It is important to recognize what we might flippantly think of as the 'rank and file'. While Deb has a very broad range in dealing with folks throughout the organization, you have to work with her on grants or problems before you may be aware of her value...we are all very proud of her ability as a Port employee and a woman..."