

Highland News

Leader

Highland woman wins award from Madison-Bond Workforce Investment Board

The Madison-Bond Workforce Investment Board hosted its annual awards banquet, which included a luncheon. The awards program is a long-standing tradition that honors local customers, business leaders, and project successes. This year, the annual luncheon was held at the N.O. Nelson Center in Edwardsville on March 30.

Laura Halley of Highland was one of 10 people who received the 2012 Individual Achievement Award for overcoming significant obstacles to achieve their personal career goals.

Walgreens was awarded the 2012 Business Leadership Award, given to private sector companies that have demonstrated leadership and made significant contributions to workforce/economic development activities. From its humble beginnings as a small neighborhood drugstore founded in 1901, the company has enjoyed enormous growth. As of Jan. 31, 2012, Walgreens reports 6,624 drugstores that include a pharmacy drive-through, as well as 1,624 stores conveniently open 24 hours a day, out of a total drugstore count of 7,830. In fiscal year 2011, 261 new stores were opened and it is anticipated the company will increase its store base by approximately 2.5 percent to 3 percent in fiscal year 2012. Walgreens leads the chain drugstore industry in sales and profit, employs

approximately 247,000 workers and each store offers approximately 18,000 different items.

During the awards ceremony, David Stoecklin, Executive Director of the Madison County Employment and Training Department, mentioned, "This is our 24th awards banquet. Whenever I learn about the stories of nominees, I truly appreciate their courage, perseverance, and positive attitudes to overcome any challenges they have faced. They possess the very spirit that this community needs to share and promote. And, I want to show appreciation to our private-sector businesses for their contributions to the local workforce and economic development efforts. I am also grateful to those volunteers from our Workforce Board and staff that go above and beyond to help make this event so special every year."

The 39 member WIB strives to ensure service integration in order to prepare individuals to meet the needs of business and industry in the region. It takes a leadership role in advocating, planning, evaluating, and developing local workforce resources in order to enable individuals and businesses to reach their full potential in a changing global marketplace. The Board assures, in conjunction with the Madison County Employment and Training Department, that the WIA funds are used in a way that will most effectively enhance the economic well-being of the local community. Please visit www.madisonbondwib.org for its accomplishments.