

2012 Annual WiNUP Conference by Kristen Thompson

One hundred twenty-seven guests from 17 companies, representing 11 WiNUP chapters traveled from 12 states to attend this year's annual WiNUP conference Oct. 8-10 in Columbus, Ohio. The conference, titled "E 4 ALL- Energy, Environment, Economy & Education," offered plenty of valuable personal and professional development, and networking opportunities.

The conference kicked off with a warm greeting by Velda Otey, 2012 International president. Otey's welcoming words and calming personality put everyone at ease and family reunion atmosphere with 127 of your closest relatives.

Guests witnessed a flash mob that got everyone up and moving before being welcomed to Columbus by a representative from the Columbus mayor's office as well as City Council woman Michelle Mills.

With energy and expectations high, keynote speaker Nick Akins, president and CEO of American Electric Power, captivated the audience by speaking on both a personal and professional level. Akins spoke about challenges in today's industry including rates, rate impacts and environmental issues.

As well as addressing industry issues, Akins spoke about the effects others have on shaping our careers and some of his personal mentors who have played a role in helping him achieve success.

In addition to hearing from speakers on the topics of economy and energy, guests were given the opportunity to interact with a panel of four environmental experts who shared their opinions of sustaining economic growth while reducing emissions.

The "Talk to Me," show returned for a second year, which allowed audience members to interact with Sara Martinez Tucker, AEP Board of Directors, and Michael Jesanis, NiSource Board of Directors.

Wednesday morning featured a workshop titled, "Promoting U." This self-motivating workshop focused on when appropriate and a well-timed opportunity presents itself, you should take advantage and share your personal successes and or accomplishments. Reluctance to talk about your successes could be derailing your career and leaving it open for many missed opportunities.

No conference would be complete without showing the guests around the city. There were four tour options to choose from this year. The historical Kelton House tour, the industry-related tours at Ohio State University Center for Automotive Research and Battelle World Headquarters, and community service-oriented tour of Maryhaven rehabilitation center.

The annual business meeting brought the announcement and installation of WiNUP's 16th Chapter – Congratulations Atlanta and best of luck to all the charter members!

The 2013 international officers were announced. Congratulations to:

President – Donna Campbell, West Virginia Chapter
Vice President/President Elect – Janet Rehberg, Ohio Chapter
Treasurer – Susan Toombs, Ohio Chapter
Secretary – Cindy Kolecki, Ohio Chapter

Congratulations to this year's award winners:

Power Award – Ashlee Siegle, Indiana Chapter
OAK Award – Lila Munsey, Kentucky Chapter

Newsletter

1st Place – Northern Indiana – Certificate and \$100 check
2nd Place – Indiana – Certificate and \$75 check
3rd Place – Ohio – Certificate and \$50 check

Chapter Achievement

Category 1 (1 to 10 members) – Indiana – Certificate and \$100 check
Category 3 (more than 25 members) – Ohio – Certificate and \$100 check

The 2012 WiNUP Conference in Columbus Ohio was a success! Not only did guest benefit personally and professionally, they also helped to raise more than \$2,000 for breast cancer research.

The Ohio Conference Committee thanks all who made the trip to Ohio to attend. It is exciting to witness new bonds be-ing made and old friends reuniting. If you would like to request the contact information for fellow conference attendees so you can keep in touch, please send your request to winup_email@aep.com.