



---

For media information, contact: Rebecca Patrick (317) 264-6897 / [rpatrick@indianachamber.com](mailto:rpatrick@indianachamber.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Governor's Workplace Safety Leaders Honored at Indiana Chamber Event**

**February 14, 2007 (INDIANAPOLIS)** — Four Hoosier companies and one individual were recognized today with the 2007 Governor's Workplace Safety Award for advancing occupational safety and health. Indiana Commissioner of Labor Lori A. Torres presented the honors during a luncheon ceremony at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's annual Safety and Health Conference and Expo in downtown Indianapolis.

The 2007 Governor's Workplace Safety Awards are a result of a partnership among government, business and safety leaders: the Indiana Department of Labor, on behalf of Gov. Mitch Daniels, the Indiana Chamber and the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (partners with the Chamber in presenting the Safety and Health Conference and Expo). The focus is on best practices for eliminating job-related accidents and illnesses, and saluting those organizations for which safety is the number one workplace priority.

This year, awards were handed out in five categories: education and outreach, general contractor, innovations, partnerships and specialty contractor. The 2007 winners are:

- **Eli Lilly & Company – Biosynthetic Human Insulin Manufacturing** in Indianapolis/Marion County (Innovations)
- **OmniSource Corporation - Plant 2 Ferrous Operations** in Fort Wayne/Allen County (Partnerships)
- **Charlie Schneider, personnel, safety and loss control director for the City of Jasper** in Jasper/Dubois County (Education and Outreach)
- **Steinberger Construction** in Logansport/Cass County (General Contractor)
- **Valenti-Held Contractor/Developer Inc.** in Whitestown/Boone County (Specialty Contractor)

"The Indiana Department of Labor is proud to sponsor the Governor's Workplace Safety Awards. It is our opportunity to recognize premier safety programs and give accolades to the leaders of safety in Hoosier industries. The award-winning companies' excellent safety records are indicative of the governor's commitment to partnerships and effective safety implementation," Torres states.

Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar notes that, "Obviously, the most important benefit of workplace safety is protecting the health of your employees. However, at the same time, a strong commitment to safety practices can ultimately improve the quality of a company's products and services – and increase the bottom line."

- more -

All 2007 recipients demonstrated a strong commitment to workplace safety and health through proactive innovation, education and work practices. About the honorees:

Eli Lilly and Company has exemplified safety practices at one of its higher risk industrial scale chemical processing operations: the **Eli Lilly & Company - Biosynthetic Human Insulin (BHI) Manufacturing** facility. Among BHI's most significant accomplishments in 2006 was removing chlorine from its insulin manufacturing process. The initiative not only streamlined production, but also reduced the chances of a hazardous scenario impacting residents and individuals working near the plant.

**OmniSource Corporation - Plant 2 Ferrous Operations**, a scrap recycling facility, is the only ferrous scrap recycler in the nation to receive Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star certification. In 2006, the total reportable incident rate was 68% below the industry average and the lost workday incident rate was 89% below the industry average. Employees play an integral role in enhancing safety at the facility by scheduling and conducting committee meetings.

For the past 13 years, **Charlie Schneider, personnel, safety and loss control director for the City of Jasper**, has driven education and training for workers, with the creation of the Department of Safety and Health marking the importance of the efforts. Underlying the department's mission is the idea that there is no pre-established safety and health goal that takes precedence over others; safety and health programs continue to evolve as part of an ongoing process. The city's safety committee was the state's first to participate in training on 10-hour OSHA standards and receive certificates from the Indiana Department of Labor, BuSET Division – now known as INSafe.

Family-owned general contractor **Steinberger Construction** partners with industrial and commercial clients. The organization makes safety training a priority – holding weekly “tool box talks” at job sites to discuss firsthand safety topics, offering safety training for new employees and providing comprehensive drug testing for employees. Its annual Super Safety Training Day offers wellness screenings, certification courses and more.

**Valenti-Held Contractor/Developer Inc.** constructs and installs underground utilities, as well as performs mass earth development. As part of its safety program, Valenti-Held maintains a database that records internal safety trends. In addition, one employee receives a monetary award and recognition in the organization's newsletter each month for exemplary work that meets safety standards.

###