

One Great Community Salutes

Chamber Champion – April 2010

Kay Whittington

Kay Whittington leads by example. Education and Community are her number one! This is what brought her to the top as our Chamber Champion this month. “It was never about me, it was about looking at the horizon and being honest about what you see”, said Whittington in a discussion about how she has accomplished so many positive goals with her time both at Centerstone and reaching out to our Community. One thing she said she keeps in the front of her mind is to “not focus on the negatives – you have to look beyond and be a visionary.” She said that most of her professional and volunteer work has been successful due to collaboration with others.

Kay said that her Grandparents were instrumental in the development of her belief system. She said they taught her that it was important to “not just watch the parade – be in it!” It is evident that Kay took this advice to heart when you look at all that she has accomplished and the attitude with which she has embraced so many challenges in her career as well as in her volunteer work in this community. She stated that it’s important to “not just live in a community be a part of a Community. Community success is about what you and others do for their community”.

Kay has indeed been a community supporter. She has served on a variety of boards within the east central Indiana region including 14 just in the Wayne County Area. Kay is originally from Jay County, Indiana. She graduated from High School there and then went on to pursue higher education, receiving a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree and ultimately a Ph.D. from Ball State University. Kay was the CEO of Dunn Mental Health Center in Richmond, IN for the past five years but recently assumed the role of chief implementation office for Centerstone of Indiana during their merger with Dunn.

Kay was nominated by Susan Markley, LMHC, senior consultant for Centerstone Research Institute who described her as, “very active in the Chamber Committees and the work associated with building a stronger Chamber. She has served on other multiple boards of directors and successfully led Dunn Center through financial difficulties, saving hundreds of jobs. She is a Chamber Champion!” Kay said that every community has its own character and that the Wayne County Area welcomed her wherever she went when she returned back to the community, stating, “There was a Hoosier welcome everywhere. That’s the kind of community we live in.”

Both Centerstone and Kay believe, “Healthy Minds, Strong Communities”. Kay lives by example and by her marked achievements and contributions is doing all she can to help make it come true. She truly is a person who exemplifies the characteristics and values of a true Chamber Champion and is highly respected for the good work she does making our community a better place to live, work and play.