

UI INTEGRITY, PROGRAM REFORM AND REEMPLOYMENT

2016 Award Recipients

Each year UWC accepts nominations for awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in research, public policy, UI system integrity and contributions to UWC. A Recognition Awards committee reviews nominations and selects individuals for recognition at the annual National UI Issues Conference.

The **J. Eldred Hill, Jr., Award**: This award is named after J. Eldred Hill, Jr., former president of UWC (then UBA), and is given to an individual for excellence in the public policy arena in service to the employer community.

The **UI Integrity Award**: This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated commitment to preserving the integrity of the unemployment system.

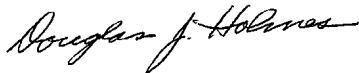
The **Father Becker Award**: This award is named for the late Father Joseph Becker, a pioneer and scholar in the development of the Unemployment Insurance system. The award is given to an individual who has made major contributions to unemployment insurance research.

In 2016 we received many nominations of individuals deserving of recognition.

This year, UWC and the NFUCWC recognize two individuals to receive the J. Eldred Hill Award, one to receive the UI Integrity Award, and one to receive the Father Becker Award.

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. Holmes
President

UI INTEGRITY, PROGRAM REFORM AND REEMPLOYMENT

J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts is truly deserving of the J. Eldred Hill, Jr., Award for excellence in the public policy arena in service to the employer community. Governor Ricketts has made transforming Nebraska's unemployment insurance system into a re-employment system a point of emphasis in his administration. With Nebraska having consistently one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, accelerating workers' return to employment is a vital part of connecting job creators with talent across Nebraska.

The first in the nation program leverages cutting edge software that requires jobseekers filing for unemployment to register for work and post a searchable resume in NEworks, the Nebraska employment services system, *before* they can file an unemployment claim. Employers can then search posted resumes for a particular skill inventory, find resumes of individuals with the right experience, and/or utilize a Virtual Recruiter tool and proactively reach out to potential applicants.

NEworks provides program participants and all registered users with access to employment tools and resources, such as a resume builder, a messaging center to communicate with employers and workforce staff, free online learning resources, job search options including the virtual recruiter to identify personalized employment opportunities, and access to their individual employment plan.

The reemployment program is unique in that *all* jobseekers who receive unemployment benefits are required to enroll in an individualized reemployment plan to remain eligible for benefits unless they are only on temporary layoff from their regular employer. Department of Labor staff help program participants identify goals and objectives and determine the appropriate combination of services for the participant to meet their employment goals. These plans are designed to help engage the individuals and provide them with a clear understanding of where they are going in terms of finding new employment.

Governor Ricketts takes every opportunity to promote the reemployment program. He tirelessly promotes the program as he speaks throughout the state and recognized one of its participants during his State of the State address. The Governor even made time in his schedule to appear in a video for the program's orientation session. It is remarkable that a Governor would take such a personal interest in the development and implementation of a state system that makes a strong connection between all unemployed workers and reemployment. Employers and unemployed workers in Nebraska have benefitted from Governor Ricketts' leadership, and it is our honor to recognize Governor Ricketts with the J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award for excellence in public policy and service to the employer community.



UI INTEGRITY, PROGRAM REFORM AND REEMPLOYMENT

J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award

Indiana State Representative Dan Leonard has served Indiana as a leader in addressing Unemployment Insurance Legislation in the challenging times since the Great Recession. Indiana was one of the states that were most impacted by the recession.

Representative Leonard has been the driving legislative force behind major changes in Indiana's Unemployment Compensation Act. His efforts have resulted in a total change in the funding mechanisms, coupled with the enactment of additional qualification and eligibility controls, which have resulted in Indiana recovering from a \$2 billion trust fund deficit to a positive balance with projections indicating fund adequacy within the next two years.

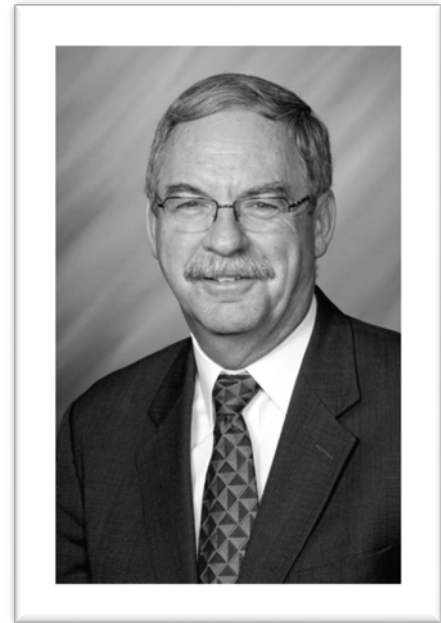
In 2009, Indiana enacted a recovery bill with major tax increases during the depths of the trust fund deficit. The following year, Rep. Leonard authored legislation which resulted in an additional 10-year savings of \$3.9 billion for employers.

In 2015, Rep. Leonard worked out an early repayment of Indiana's remaining trust fund debt, saving Hoosier employers \$397 million by extinguishing the impact of the loss of FUTA offset without the need to enact legislation.

Dan Leonard is a smallbusiness owner who pays the UI tax. He understands the subject and the legislative process. He quietly influences outcomes time after time. His example is one worth following nationally. He is calmly committed to improvement of the Indiana UI Act and Indiana's economic success. Rep. Dan Leonard's leadership has brought Indiana from disaster to being on the brink of complete recovery, and he sets the stage for future improvement.

Indiana would not have found its way through the minefield of insolvency without Dan Leonard's leadership and ability to craft specific legislation. Neither would Indiana be on the threshold of returning its UI trust fund to solvency without Rep. Leonard's insistence. The Indiana business community and its legislature look to Dan Leonard to handle UI issues, and he does so effectively and efficiently.

We are pleased to recognize Representative Dan Leonard with the J. Eldred Hill Award for excellence in public policy and service to the employer community.



UI INTEGRITY, PROGRAM REFORM AND REEMPLOYMENT

UI Integrity Award

Over 25 years ago Mike Lorsbach left the Illinois Department of Employment Security to start On Point Technology. Starting up a company to address UI Integrity issues was difficult, but Mike recognized the need for new solutions to detect fraud and to prevent fraud. Over the years the mission of the company and his determination have been constant, to provide the United States Unemployment Insurance Community with the highest quality, most effective technology services and software applications.



Mike's accomplishments in his 25 years of service to the UI community include:

- Technology solutions to stop fraud and collect past due debt in 21 State Workforce Agencies (SWA). On Point has a 100% success rate in deployment of those systems.
- Testimony on UI integrity issues before Congress.
- Development of a solution to prevent identity theft, fictitious employer and third party organized fraud schemes. In one state alone in 2015, these solutions prevented over \$50 million in payments that would otherwise be directly charged to employers and the state trust fund.
- Establishing On Point Technology as a leading solution provider to UI agencies (per a 2015 survey of SWAs published by NASWA and the Integrity Center of Excellence).
- The development of the online real-time GUIDE benefit payment system, with an unbroken record of more than 16 years having never missed a night's processing and payment of benefits.
- Development of products which have, over the length of Mike's career in UI, recaptured over \$4 billion in improper payments for state agencies, saving employers large amounts in direct charges and pooled costs.
- Support for UWC in the development of policy and sponsoring the National UI Issues conference hosted by UWC's National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation.

Mike has been a national leader for UI Integrity for decades, and it is only fitting that we recognize him with the UI Integrity Award.

UI INTEGRITY, PROGRAM REFORM AND REEMPLOYMENT

Father Becker Award

Dr. James Van Erden has had a profound positive impact on the Federal/State Unemployment Insurance System as a researcher, in policy development and in UI program administration. His career spans economic expansions and recessions over decades.

Jim has served as a Trustee of the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation for more than 20 years. He is the go-to expert who develops and provides training about unemployment insurance in a number of settings, including UI Issues conferences.

He has dedicated his career to the improvement of the workforce system. Jim's public service began after he received his Ph.D. from the University of Utah and taught economics at Weber State College. From 1975 to 1987, Jim served as an Economist, Actuary and Chief Actuary for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in the Office of Unemployment Insurance. Jim's contributions during this time included developing the national UI Quality Control System and the first computerized simulation models to provide estimates for UI program data.

Jim has worked with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies as Senior Policy Advisor since 2011 where he has led major projects and research on UI and workforce programs. He is the lead behind NASWA research that is used by UWC, Congress, the Department of Labor, and state leaders. He has been the main force behind the Integrity Center of Excellence.

Jim's work with NASWA on an annual report on the state supplementation of administrative funding for UI and an annual state survey reviewing UI taxes provides everyone in the field with invaluable information.

Dr. Van Erden's contribution to scholarship and research for the Unemployment Insurance system place him among the most profound contributors to research and policy development in the history of the UI program.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Dr. James Van Erden with the Father Becker Award for his major contributions to UI Research.

