



IN-PLANT PRINTING AND MAILING ASSOCIATION

INSIDEDGE

A Newsletter for In-House Printing and Mailing Professionals

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Higgins and Porter Receive Brahney Scholarships

Soncearay Higgins and Clarence Porter are this year's Brahney Scholarship recipients.

This scholarship, presented annually in memory of James. M. Brahney, a founder of IPMA and its first international president, serves to promote education in the field of in-house corporate publishing or management. Any IPMA member or child/grandchild of a member is eligible to apply. Scholarships are to be used to pay educational fees at a college, university or vocational/technical/trade school offering a curriculum in in-house corporate publishing or management.

Scholarships can also be used to help members attend IPMA's Educational Conference.

Soncearay (Colette) Higgins

Soncearay Higgins, known by her colleagues as Colette, has served as Print Shop Manager for Standley Systems in Oklahoma City, OK. She has recently accepted a new position with DM Mailing Service, Inc. She is IPMA's Region 5 Coordinator for members in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas. She also serves as secretary of IPMA's Oklahoma Chapter.



Higgins used the scholarship to help her attend IPMA's 2009 Conference. "Even as a wife, mother, and grandmother, I feel this is the right time in my life to contribute towards my own personal and professional desires."

Having attended the past five IPMA conferences, she believes her development as a print manager and many of her operation's day-to-day advancements have directly resulted from networking and brainstorming with other in-plant managers. "The educational sessions have delivered a wealth of knowledge and the tours have provided hands-on experience that is priceless."

She adds, "I also find it comforting to hear the testimonials and trials of others with like responsibilities." Higgins continues to value the professional relationships built over the years. "There are so many people who are willing to help me through the difficult processes of selecting equipment, products, software and implementation. It sometimes feels like I have my own personal network."

Clarence Porter

Clarence Porter is the Program Director at CareFirst BlueCross and BlueShield in Washington, D.C.

A regular attendee at local IPMA meetings, he used the scholarship to help defray expenses to IPMA's Conference in Rochester, NY.



Having attended 13 IPMA conferences over the years, he looks forward to the annual event. "I have gained a great wealth of knowledge and understanding from the face-to-face conversations with other IPMA associates. My organization and crew have also benefitted from the information that I have learned from conference sessions, as well as from the positive conversations with others."

He has found IPMA conferences provide additional technical, hands-on experience and in-depth knowledge to enhance staff morale, build self-confidence, promote the quality of work, and further career goals.

Throughout Porter's professional and personal experiences, his philosophy has always been, "Learn to change and change to learn." By attending IPMA 2009, both he and his team of in-plant professionals will continue the process of learning and changing.