



The Power of Us:  
**Shaping our Shared Future**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NHBSR Announces Award Recipients for Commitment to Social Responsibility at Annual Spring Conference

**Concord, NH (April 15, 2025):** New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR) will present its prestigious Cornerstone and Partnership for Innovation Awards on May 22, 2025, at the Grappone Conference Center. The awards ceremony is part of NHBSR's 24th Annual Spring Conference.

This year's theme, "[\*\*The Power of US: Shaping Our Shared Future\*\*](#)," explores how collective action drives solutions to today's challenges. Gain actionable insights on strengthening community resilience, fostering collaboration, and empowering individuals.

### Keynote Address by Renowned Speaker Benjamin Ole Akande

Dr. Akande is a respected economist, scholar, and global consultant to Fortune 500 companies. A results-oriented leader, Dr. Akande is lauded for his ability to connect with diverse constituencies at all levels. Globally, Dr. Akande previously served on the Board of two publicly traded companies: Ralcorp, Enterprise Bank & Trust, as well as a privately held wealth management company: Argent Capital. An engaging and compelling communicator, Dr. Akande has appeared on Anderson Cooper 360, CBS Evening News, and St. Louis affiliates of FOX, CBS, ABC and NBC. Dr. Akande's commentaries have been published in USA TODAY, Financial Times and aired on National Public Radio's *Marketplace*.

### Living Your Values Panel

Moderated by James McKim, this panel brings together leaders from diverse sectors to discuss the intersection of purpose and practice in today's business landscape. The panel will share insights on embedding sustainability, social responsibility, and equity into business operations. Through real-world examples and candid conversation, they will explore how companies can align their values with their strategies to drive lasting impact in their communities and beyond. Panelists include: [\*\*Erik Drake\*\*](#), CEO, Coast of Maine; [\*\*Jenny Levy\*\*](#), Executive Vice President, People, Community & Environment, Hypertherm North America; [\*\*Matthew Gardner\*\*](#), Managing Partner, Sustainserve; [\*\*Lex Meagher\*\*](#), CEO, Kennebunk Savings, and [\*\*Elizabeth Salas, M.S.\*\*](#), Business Advisor, Regional Economic Development Center | President, Cayena Capital Management LLC

## Conference Sessions Offer Insights on Critical Issues Facing Businesses

Attendees at the NHBSR Spring Conference can participate in a variety of sessions on timely topics such as:

- Sustainable Business Models for the Future
- Building Neighborhood Networks for Collective Action
- Inclusive Leadership and Workplace Culture
- What Works: Youth Partnership
- Drive change without authority
- Future-Forward Workplaces

## Award Winners will be recognized for Leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility.

The Cornerstone and Partnership for Innovation Awards honor businesses and individuals who exemplify outstanding commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) within the New Hampshire business community.

## Registration Information and About NHBSR

For more information and to register for the NHBSR Spring Conference, visit:  
[www.nhbsr.org/conference](http://www.nhbsr.org/conference)

**Special thanks** to presenting sponsor Dartmouth Health, keynote sponsor Sustainerv, and event sponsors: Hypertherm Associates, 36Creative, re-Sourced, BankProv, NH Charitable Foundation, NH Business Review, NH Public Radio, 92.5 The River, Kennebunk Savings, Cirtronics, Image 4, LaBelle Winery, The Browne Center, Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast, Normandeau Associates, Ceres, Northeast Delta Dental, Hannaford, MegaFood, Merchants Fleet, Ripple Effect Studio, Cornerstone Financial Planning, Coruway Film Institute, Doug Rathburn Photography, NHA V, Promo Centric and The Richards Group.

###



**New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR)** is a member-based non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring and supporting businesses in building a more sustainable and prosperous New Hampshire for all. Learn more at [nhbsr.org](http://nhbsr.org).

### Press contact:

Debbie Roy, Communications Manager, NHBSR  
Telephone: 603-377-8821  
Email: [debbie@nhbsr.org](mailto:debbie@nhbsr.org)  
Website: [www.nhbsr.org](http://www.nhbsr.org)