

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Power of US Conference Fosters Collaboration and Action for a Thriving New Hampshire

Concord, NH – June 3, 2025 – The New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR) The Power of US Conference, held on May 22nd at the Grappone Center in Concord, brought together over two-hundred business leaders, community members, and stakeholders from across New Hampshire to explore how businesses and communities can work together for shared success.

A Vision for a Prosperous New Hampshire

The conference, themed "The Power of US: Shaping Our Shared Future," served as a platform for collaboration and action. Attendees participated in insightful discussions led by experts like renowned keynote Dr. Benjamin Ole Akande and business panelists Erik Drake, CEO, Coast of Maine; Jenny Levy, Executive Vice President, People, Community & Environment, Hypertherm North America; Matthew Gardner, Managing Partner, Sustainserv; Lex Meagher, CEO, Kennebunk Savings, and Elizabeth Salas, M.S., Business Advisor, Regional Economic Development Center and President, Cayena Capital Management LLC.



Keynote **Benjamin Ole Akande**. Photo credit Doug Rathburn Photography

The conference was a hub for networking and collaboration, with attendees diving into interactive workshops, engaging in spirited discussions, and forging connections with individuals and organizations from all corners of the state. The breakout sessions delved into a wide range of crucial subjects, including **Sustainable Business Models for the Future**, nurturing **Neighborhood Networks for Collective Action**, developing **Inclusive Leadership and Workplace Culture**, and exploring **Youth Partnership**. This focus on connection resonated deeply with participants. Dedra Fitzgerald, a Badger, praised the conference, stating, "There were many opportunities to connect with folks during sessions, in between sessions, and during the networking hour. Thank you for making that a key part of the conference." Similarly, Beth Shafer found one session particularly beneficial, noting, "This session gave me concrete skills to use to re-frame challenges and be open to alternate solutions I may not have otherwise considered."

The Power of US Awards Recognize Excellence

In addition to the insightful sessions and networking opportunities, the conference recognized excellence through the presentation of the prestigious Cornerstone and Partnership for Innovation Awards. These awards honor individuals and organizations making significant contributions to aligning business and community interests in New Hampshire. NHBSR is thrilled to reiterate the 2024 award recipients:

- **Cornerstone Award:** Kennebunk Savings Bank – This award recognizes an individual or company exemplifying CSR principles and promoting them within the NH business community.



Kennebunk Savings Bank accepting the Cornerstone Award with Zeina Eyceoz. Photo credit Doug Rathburn Photography

- **Partnership for Innovation Award:** New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF)– Recognized for their unwavering commitment to making New Hampshire a community where everyone can thrive. Through collaborative partnerships, strategic grantmaking, and innovative philanthropic initiatives, NHCF brings together nonprofits, businesses, donors, and community leaders to address complex challenges such as housing, mental health, substance misuse, and access to quality education. Their work is guided by values of accountability, belonging, collaboration, courage, equity, and justice, ensuring that measurable progress is made toward removing barriers and creating opportunities for all residents.



Partnership for Innovation Award was awarded to the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Photo credit Doug Rathburn Photography.

NHBSR: Building a Sustainable and Prosperous New Hampshire

NHBSR remains committed to inspiring and supporting businesses in building a more sustainable and prosperous New Hampshire for all.

Special thanks to presenting sponsor Dartmouth Health, keynote sponsor Sustainserv, 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, NHAV, Promo Centric, The Richards Group, and Badger.

Visit www.nhbsr.org to learn more about NHBSR and its initiatives.

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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.