

## **Linkage's Global Institute for Leadership Development (GILD) named Top Leadership Development Program**

*GILD Tops Leadership Excellence's Annual Survey*

**Burlington, MA., Oct. 18th, 2006** – Linkage, Inc. a global leadership development and organizational development company that specializes in areas including succession planning, change and transition management, coaching and mentoring announced today that its Global Institute for Leadership Development (GILD) was named to Leadership Excellence's Magazine Top 100 Leadership Development Programs. GILD, co-chaired by Warren Bennis and Phil Harkins, CEO, Linkage, Inc, is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, topped the list in the category "Large Consulting Groups".

Leadership Excellence surveyed close to 600 U.S.-based organizations known for their excellence in developing leaders. The ranking was based on the following criteria:

- Vision/mission
- Involvement/participation
- Accountability/measurement
- Content/curriculum
- Presenters/presentations
- Take-home value/results for customers
- Outreach of the programs and products

Based on the survey responses, site visits and the more than 20 years of publishing experience in this field, Ken Shelton, editor of Leadership Excellence issued a ranking of the 100 best Leadership Development programs in North America. "GILD exemplifies what we consider to be a "best-in-class" program. The value is apparent to the participants – they come in with clear expectations and come away with concrete applications and accountability," said Shelton. "Not only does GILD provide access to a diverse, world-class faculty that drives growth and development, the program also tracks, measures and reports on results delivering a strong return-on-investment to participating organizations."

GILD is a unique leadership program which blends leadership assessment and coaching, peer-to-peer learning teams, and leadership training from world-renowned faculty of leaders. The program is designed around the High Impact Leadership Model – a proven leadership competency model co-developed by Linkage and Warren Bennis. The program draws high-level participation from a leading organizations from a wide-range of industries including pharmaceutical, financial/banking, technology, health services, and manufacturing. Almost 30% of the participants hold the title of President, CEO, Chairman, or VP in their organizations. GILD provides an intense, interactive learning experience for its participants, and helps them to develop critical leadership capabilities. It consistently receives some of the highest evaluation marks in the industry from its participants.

Past participants of GILD have said:

GILD is the best overall approach to leading I have ever been a part of externally. I was re-energized as a leader, learned applicable tools, and learned about myself."

-Jeff Patton, senior director, Kraft Foods

Linkage's Global Institute is the Ivy League of leadership development.

-Susan Acquisto, president, Professional Health Services

Best overall model of leadership I've ever come across. The combination of the comprehensive framework with the world-leading thinking in each discipline was outstanding."

-Steve Tedesco, director, Clarica

"We are extremely pleased to have earned top honors on this list, remarked Todd Langton, President of Linkage, Inc.. We have created and continue to refine our program to provide an exceptional learning experience for our participants. It is rewarding to have GILD acknowledged in the ranking of our industry peers."

This year GILD brings together faculty that include, Marcus Buckingham, Dave Ulrich, Clayton Christensen, Jack Welch, Gary Hamel and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. For more information on GILD, please visit [www.linkageinc.com/GILD](http://www.linkageinc.com/GILD).

About Linkage:

Linkage, Inc. is a global organizational development company that specializes in leadership development. Serving the public and private sectors, the Company provides clients around the globe with integrated solutions that include strategic consulting services, customized on-site training experiences, tailored assessment services, and benchmark research and publications.

With a relentless commitment to learning, Linkage also offers a full range of conferences, institutes, summits, public workshops, and distance learning programs on leading-edge topics in leadership, management, HR, and OD. More than 100,000 leaders and managers have attended such a Linkage program since the Company's founding in 1988. On two occasions, Linkage has been named to the *Inc. 500*, a list of the fastest growing private companies in the United States.

Linkage is headquartered in Burlington, Massachusetts. In addition to regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco and Minneapolis, Linkage has offices in Japan, Korea, Singapore, South Africa and Western Europe. For more information on Linkage's Consulting and training services, research, assessment, publications and events can be found at [www.linkageinc.com](http://www.linkageinc.com).

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