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## U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION NEWS

Institute for Organization Management

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MONTH, DAY, 2013      Contact: Shelby Parish 202-463-5973

### U.S. Chamber's Institute Program Awards Sam's Club® Scholarship to Thane Phelan of Washington

*A Four-Year Leadership Training Produced by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation*

**Washington D.C.** — Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, announced today that Thane Phelan of The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce has been awarded a Sam's Club® Scholarship. Awarded to 20 first-year attendees from across the country, the Sam's Club scholarships recognize individuals that exhibit excellent nonprofit management practices in several areas, including involvement in professional industry organizations, community involvement and demonstrated leadership.

“The U.S. Chamber is proud to partner with Sam's Club to provide these dedicated professionals the opportunity to attend Institute and educate them on how to better represent their members and expand their organizations' influence,” said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, vice president of Institute for Organization Management at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. “We are pleased to help these talented individuals advance their careers and organizations, and we appreciate the commitment from Sam's Club to the business community.”

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has educated tens of thousands of association, chamber, and other nonprofit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members, and become strong business advocates.

Each of the Sam's Club scholarship recipients will attend one of Institute's five sites in 2013. At the completion of the four-year curriculum, each of the recipients will receive the IOM graduate recognition, signifying completion of 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management and their commitment to the industry. In addition, all credit hours earned through Institute may be applied toward the Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) or Certified Association Executive (CAE) industry certification.

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Institute for Organization Management is the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. It is the premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (USCCF) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce dedicated to strengthening America's long-term competitiveness by addressing developments that affect our nation, our economy, and the global business environment.

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