

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Nick Meyer

NIPSCO External Communications

(219) 647-6556

### **NIPSCO Announces Luminary Award Recipients**

*Community leaders and organizations recognized for commitment to education, emergency response, environmental stewardship and community leadership*

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today announced the recipients of the company’s inaugural Luminary Awards.

Winners are being announced in conjunction with a community reception being held this evening – one of many planned activities celebrating NIPSCO’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This year's recipients of the NIPSCO Luminary Awards are:

- **Community Leadership Award** – Indiana State Representative Chester Dobis
- **Emergency Response Award** – Retired Fire Chief, Howard Buchanon, and members of the South Bend Fire Department
- **Education Award** – Chancellor James Dworkin, Purdue University’s North Central
- **Environmental Stewardship Award** – Mayor Keith Solderquist, Lake Station, Ind.

“The Luminary Awards were inspired by our 100 years of service, and we wanted to honor local leaders for their outstanding commitment to strengthening our communities,” said NIPSCO CEO Jimmy Staton. “Congratulations to each of the inaugural award recipients for truly lighting the way for others to follow.”

The Luminary Awards recognize those who have acted with integrity, faith and confidence on behalf of the community, as well as being a catalyst for creation of positive leadership in Indiana and the northern Indiana region.

Individuals and organizations were nominated by members of NIPSCO’s Community Advisory Panels in the categories of education, environment, emergency response and excellence in community leadership.

NIPSCO is also making a \$1,000 contribution to each award winner’s charity of choice.

#### **Community Leadership**

Rep. Chester Dobis is being recognized for his 42 years of public service, representing the people of House District 13. This award, however, also reflects the significant impact this individual had in improving the quality of life for the residents of northwest Indiana thorough his vision, leadership and ability to work with all elected officials – regardless of level or party. A \$1,000 contribution in Representative Dobis’ name will be made to Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Indiana.

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#### **Emergency Response**

Retired South Bend Fire Chief, Howard Buchanon is being recognized for his 38 years of dedicated service with the South Bend Fire Department and his willingness to partner with NIPSCO to improve emergency response procedures, natural gas safety training and damage prevention. His efforts have made a positive impact on public safety in the City of South Bend. A \$1,000 contribution in Chief Buchanon's name will be made to 100 Black Men of Greater South Bend.

#### **Education**

Purdue University North Central Chancellor James Dworkin is being recognized for the partnerships he has initiated with local school corporations that encouraged and supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) projects in grades K - 12. Under his leadership, the Purdue North Central campus has become a change agent, supporting initiatives that emphasize and support STEM education in this region. A \$1,000 contribution in Chancellor Dworkin's name will be made to Purdue University North Central.

#### **Environmental Stewardship**

Lake Station Mayor Keith Solderquist is being recognized for championing the use of renewable energy sources for the City of Lake Station City Hall building, which opened in October 2011. By including a roof-mounted solar array, three wind turbines and many other eco-friendly features in this LEED-certified building, he established the City of Lake Station as a leader in being both green and energy efficient. A \$1,000 contribution in Mayor Solderquist's name will be made to the Lake Station Pop Warner League.

*NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the seven energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With more than 786,000 natural gas customers and 457,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.8 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in seven states. More information about NIPSCO is available at [www.nipsco.com](http://www.nipsco.com).*

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**Editor's Note: Photos of the award recipients are available upon request.**