

# *Summa Comp Laude®*

## *The David J DePaolo Award*

### Workers' Compensation Institute (WCI)

The Workers' Compensation Institute (WCI) is a nonprofit educational organization that serves as a comprehensive resource to all industry stakeholders. WCI organizes and sponsors an annual Workers' Compensation Educational Conference in Orlando every August. The conference brings together workers' compensation professionals from all over the country for networking, education and information sharing. It is a premier forum for the study of workers' compensation, workplace safety and health and related issues.

In 2018, WCI's Workers' Compensation Educational Conference boasted 8,000 attendees, from every state except Alaska and three foreign countries, according to Jim McConaughay, general chair of WCI. Attendees ranged from upper-level executives to end-users of industry products and services. The conference included 180 sessions with 580 speakers.

As a non-profit organization, WCI uses proceeds to either enhance future conferences or promote other charitable or educational causes. One special project that has become an industry favorite to annual conference attendees is a service project to benefit "Give Kids The World." GKTW is an 84-acre, nonprofit resort in Central Florida that provides cost-free vacations to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

Since 2012, WCI has organized a service project day and gala where conference attendees gather before the annual conference to volunteer their time and assistance to complete service projects at the GKTW village, followed by a fundraising gala. This year the service day included 1,110 volunteers from 187 companies provided 4,000 man hours. The gala raised over \$100,000 for GKTW.

On receiving the Summa Comp Laude® Award, Jim said: "I am thrilled to receive this award on behalf of WCI. As a non-profit organization, we have always tried to make the workers' compensation industry better and more effective as a whole. We work very hard to get stakeholders from every state involved and have forged many partnerships with leading state and national associations. We also recognize the need to give back. It is wonderful to see all the stakeholders in the industry come together and work shoulder to shoulder during the GKTW service day. I never thought I'd see claimant's attorneys working with defense attorneys and many other stakeholders to help others. There are many nice people in this industry and it is very rewarding to see them come together for this great cause."

Steve Rissman, Program Chair of WCI accepted the award on Jim McConaughay's behalf, who was unable to attend.

