



Willowbrook Office Park
4755 Kingsway Dr., Suite 314
Indianapolis IN 46205-1549

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For more information, contact
Sharon O'Donoghue, Executive Director
Phone: (317) 917-3266

IBJ Selects BOI's O'Donoghue as One of its 2008 Influential Women

The *Indianapolis Business Journal* recently announced its list of 19 Influential Women for 2008. The Business Ownership Initiative is proud to note that its Executive Director, Sharon O'Donoghue, was among the women named.

"No matter their field, background or personal challenges they have faced, there's one common thread among the women," said *IBJ* Publisher Chris Katterjohn. "They all worked hard to get to where they are today. They have also extended their influence beyond their own jobs, to become opinion leaders in their industry and the community at large."

In 2004 O'Donoghue joined BOI, formerly the Neighborhood Self-Employment Initiative, as the first director of its Central Indiana Women's Business Center program. According to the *IBJ*, CIWBC soon "became a magnet for other women's organizations looking for guidance." Early this year, O'Donoghue was named executive director of the parent organization.

In her career, O'Donoghue has been a lawyer, a senior vice president of Lexis Nexis, and a small-business owner. Having tried it all, she's passionate about entrepreneurship, and helping clients forge new lives for themselves and their families through small-business ownership. In describing her specific sphere of influence, the *IBJ* supplement "Influential Women" called O'Donoghue the "go-to person for anyone wanting to grow or start a business in central Indiana."

When asked for her personal definition of success, O'Donoghue said, "Success occurs when I show up each day with a spirit of generosity, conducting myself in an ethical and moral manner."

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Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the SBA. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact (317) 917-3266, ext. 100. The Business Ownership Initiative of Indiana (BOI) is a not-for-profit organization. BOI's Central Indiana Women's Business Center (CIWBC) helps women and men create and develop their own small businesses by providing training and one-to-one business counseling.