



Terry F. Neimeyer
KCI Technologies




Jerald C. Sadoff, MD
Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation



Debbie Gosselin
Watermark



John T.C. Yeh
Viable

The Gazette
OF POLITICS & BUSINESS 
25
CEOs
YOU NEED TO KNOW
2008



David T. Blair
HealthExtras/Catalyst RX



Maurice B. Tosé
TeleCommunication System, Inc.



Robyn M. Sachs
RMR & Associates, Inc.



George Chavel
Sodexo

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CliffNotes



Just three short weeks ago, we learned that our 2007 edition of "25 CEOs You Need to Know" was named Best Business Special Section by SNA (Suburban Newspapers of America) for the second year in a row!

Although we're proud of this national honor, the success of this publication is clearly a reflection of the superlative CEO talent we have here in Maryland.

We're particularly excited about this year's astute and diversified group of leaders representing many industries from many parts of our state. They are presidents and CEOs from small, medium and large organizations who are not only running successful businesses, but are also giving back to their community in some charitable fashion.

So, how did we pick 25?

Easy. We had economic development offices from around the state nominate the first CEOs who came to mind. You know, the kind of CEOs who know how to execute their strategy. The kind of CEOs who can inspire others to follow their vision. The kind of CEOs you want to know!

This year, we received more than 130 nominations. We believe you'll agree all top performing CEOs in Maryland are well represented by those we've profiled.

We hope you enjoy "25 CEOs You Need to Know" as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

Cliff Chiet

Vice President & Publisher, The Gazette of Politics & Business

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George Chavel

President and CEO
Sodexo, Inc.
Gaithersburg

George Chavel, president and CEO of Sodexo, Inc., remembers his father getting up every morning at 5:00 to go to work. He did this for years, never taking a sick day. "But yet he was home for us," said Chavel. "But I watched his work ethic and saw commitment to a job in order to take care of us. You can translate that to a career."

He also counts himself fortunate to take on opportunities to do what he enjoys doing, which in turn have led to other opportunities. For example, at Sodexo, he started in the health care division in 1991. He credits the great team of people who helped him learn the business.

In 1998, Chavel took on a more senior executive role in health care and in 2005, was named chief operating officer and market president for the health care market, which was Sodexo's largest at the time, and included Senior Services, Acute Care and Laundry Services divisions. Two years later, he assumed responsibility for all of the company's North America Operations as President and Chief Executive Officer.

Sodexo, Inc. is a leading integrated food and facilities management services company in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, with \$7.3 billion (USD) in annual revenue and 120,000 employees. Sodexo, Inc. serves more than 10 million customers daily. Sodexo, Inc., headquartered in Gaithersburg, is a member of Sodexo Group, and funds the Sodexo Foundation (www.helpstophunger.org), an independent charitable organization that, since its founding in 1999, has made more than \$9.2 million in grants to fight hunger in America.

Earlier this year, Sodexo was named

one of the top 5 five companies on the 2008 Global Outsourcing 100 List published by the International Association of Outsourcing Professionals™ (IAOP).

"There's a lot to be proud of...our business is strong and growing in all segments," said Chavel. "In the past 12 months, I'm most proud of the very public and company-wide priority Sodexo has placed on programs and strategy around corporate citizenship."

Sodexo's corporate citizenship priorities include: fighting hunger and malnutrition; improving the quality of life of those served; and protecting the environment.

His favorite part of the business is the people that he's worked with. "I've had the opportunity to work with so many great people who have that deep-rooted spirit of service and who have gone beyond what they needed to do, not only for our clients and customers, but also for our own people," said Chavel.

He has found the toughest issues and decisions involve people and, because they do, it makes it personal. He lives by a "mission/business first, people always" motto, and his challenge of leadership is to wisely balance the two.

Keeping employees happy is attainable, according to Chavel, by providing clear direction, setting expectations, and communicating intent. "I give them the tools they need to succeed, and get out of their way," observed Chavel. He tries to stay focused on what the objectives are and on being a good communicator. "I'm not a micro-manager. I trust and respect the accountability that I convey to people and that they know they have the responsibility to deliver."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Website: www.sodexousa.com

Founded: 1966 (parent company - Sodexo)

Employees:

120,000 (North America)

Age: 48

Education:

B.A. in economics and management from Albion College, Albion, Michigan

First Job Held:

"As a teenager, I was a stock boy on the loading dock of my father's candy and tobacco wholesale distributorship. After college, I joined Arthur Andersen."

Hobbies:

Spending time with family (my wife and two teenage sons) doing things together. Playing the piano.

What keeps you awake at night:

Thinking about how we can be the employer of choice in the battle for talented people.

Person Most Want to Have Dinner With:

George Gershwin.

Life Motto:

"Be yourself; treat everyone around you with respect and dignity; be open to new possibilities; listen to good advice; have fun; be responsible; know when to rest and understand that you can and do make a difference with every interaction you have."

Helping CEOs Navigate Through Rough Waters

We work with business leaders to achieve their goals in the good times and the difficult times.



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