



# ESCA

## News from ESCA's Mini Lobby Day



Mike Klug (Herff Jones ), Mike Cheek (Herff Jones), Gay Felch (Herff Jones), Jill Gerrick (Walman Optical), and Roger Bowers (HNTB) meet with Congresswoman Titus (D-NV) (third from right)

On Tuesday, twenty employee-owners from eleven ESCA member companies traveled to Washington, D.C. for ESCA's first mini lobby day of 2009. This lobby day focused on educating newly-appointed Members to the House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over tax legislation, and the House Education & Labor Committee, which has jurisdiction over pension legislation. The House Education & Labor Committee is actively considering the reliability of retirement savings plans, and our education efforts are focused on ensuring that proposed changes do not negatively impact S corporation ESOPs.

We were thrilled to have participants join us from Illinois, Missouri, Louisiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Indiana, North Carolina, New York, New Jersey and Texas. Lobby day events began with a political briefing and advocacy training where participants and ESCA staff discussed how to present their personal stories of employee-ownership to Members of Congress.

After the briefing, the group was divided into four teams and spent the rest of the afternoon meeting with key congressional staff and Members of Congress. Employee-owners shared personal stories about the special benefits of being employee-owned and the retirement security they have because of their S ESOP. Members of Congress and staff were particularly taken by the point that the ESOP is an employer-provided benefit and that the majority of ESCA companies also provide other retirement savings plans for their employee-owners. After their meetings, participants reconnected for a group dinner where each team reported on their afternoon meetings.



Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Lori Elise Brakhage (Austin Industries)

Thank you to all of our companies and employee-owners who took time away from work and family to participate in lobby day. Your efforts are critical to making ESCA's educational efforts personal, and leading Members of Congress to be truly invested in protecting the ESOP benefit.



Bryan Jones (HNTB) and Roger Bowers (HNTB) with Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)

We look forward to seeing ESCA members from Florida, New Jersey, Delaware, Wyoming, New Mexico and Oregon at our May 20-21 lobby day, which will focus on new and key members of the Senate Finance Committee. More details to follow!

## Participating Companies

Amsted Industries  
Austin Industries  
Brookshire Brothers  
Garney Construction  
Herff Jones, Inc.  
HNTB  
Lifetouch, Inc.  
Messer Construction  
Moretrench American Corp.  
Parksite, Inc.  
Walman Optical