

# The Network Journal

Black Professionals and Small Business Magazine

## Kerry Y. Tucker, 39

*Executive Vice President, Administration – SBLI Mutual Life Insurance Co., New York*

Kerry Yvonne Tucker can recall her mother's advice: "Be independent, do the right thing, and be the best you can be." These words have been her bulwark throughout her career.

Tucker is executive vice president, administration, for SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Co. Inc., where she oversees the New Jersey operations center as well as satellite customer centers in Buffalo, N.Y., and Puerto Rico. She will also have charge of a new facility slated to open at the end of 2004-beginning of 2005 in Chicago. When the company became a mutual insurance company in 1999, Tucker was brought in as part of the new management team. She found a way to retain approximately 80 percent of the staff through



training and development programs, as well as by employing performance-based management systems. "All along, I have been empowered by my CEO to take on new responsibilities outside of my 'comfort zone,'" Tucker says. "I would like to be a role model for others and give them the confidence to move forward in a similar fashion. This mission is rooted in my company's deep belief in human potential, and this also matches my personal convictions."

Tucker, who has a bachelor's degree from Ithaca College, New York, and a master's in business administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey, is a member of the executive committee of Regional Business Partnerships, Newark, N.J. She serves on the boards of Girls Inc. of Northern New Jersey and the Newark YMWCA. Earlier this year, she received the Business Award from the Metropolitan Trenton African-American Chamber of Commerce for her many outstanding achievements.

40  
UNDER  
Forty