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Scottsdale Leadership announces
2011 Spirit of Community Leadership award recipients

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – Scottsdale Leadership, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving Scottsdale and the surrounding community, announces the recipients of the 2011 Spirit of Community Leadership Awards. The recipients and the awards for which they are being honored are: **Mark Eberle**, Frank W. Hodges Alumni Achievement; **Rachel Sacco**, Drinkwater Community Leadership; **Merrill Lynch**, Corporate Leadership; and **Melissa Conrad**, Youth Leadership.

Award recipients will be honored at the Scottsdale Leadership 12th Annual Spirit of Community Leadership Awards Luncheon, sponsored by Scottsdale Insurance, on Friday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event is open to the public and will be held at the Doubletree Resort by Hilton.

The Hodges Alumni Achievement award, presented by Prestige Cleaners, commemorates Frank W. Hodges, a graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class I, by honoring a Scottsdale Leadership alumnus who has and continues to illustrate exemplary community service and humanitarian values. For nearly three decades **Mark Eberle** has begun his day at 4 a.m. due to his dedication to the Scottsdale community. In the early 80s, Eberle helped pour cement and set the first goal posts for six soccer fields in Scottsdale. Shortly after, he joined the Kiwanis Club of Scottsdale McCormick and served on the board of Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Family YMCA. As a graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class VI, Eberle was inspired to get involved with the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce where he served as chair of the Airpark committee and eventually served on its board of directors. Eberle's passion for volunteerism is demonstrated through his past and current service to organizations including The Rotary Club of Scottsdale, Brandon Webb's K Foundation, the budget override committee for the Scottsdale Unified School District and the Arizona Society of CPAs.

The Drinkwater Leadership award, presented by Merrill Lynch, commemorates former Scottsdale Mayor Herb Drinkwater's commitment to the City by honoring a member of the community who has made a significant and notable contribution to the greater Scottsdale community. As the president and CEO of the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, **Rachel Sacco** is known for her ability to bring people together and to move meaningful projects forward. She has been working, volunteering and enriching the lives of individuals and organizations in Scottsdale and the greater community for all her professional life. Sacco's community involvement includes serving as a member of the national advisory board for the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University, member of Scottsdale Leadership's advisory board, and a member of the Scottsdale Chapter of National Charity League, Inc. Sacco also volunteers her time in the community with organizations such as Foundation for the Blind, Phoenix Animal Care Coalition, Scottsdale Healthcare, Special Olympics, St. Vincent de Paul, STARS, and UMOM.

The Corporate Leadership award, presented by Henkel Consumer Goods Inc., honors a company that supports leadership as a key organizational philosophy. Companies eligible for this award encourage employees to become

involved in community service, honor humanitarian values, and positively impact the community through leadership and financial support. **Merrill Lynch** has supported Scottsdale for more than 25 years by encouraging employees to actively engage in the community. Merrill Lynch employees serve on multiple non-profit boards and commissions and partner with many non-profit organizations dedicated to making Scottsdale a great community. Merrill Lynch is a proud supporter of the Association for Supportive Child Care, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale, Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library and Scottsdale Leadership. Organizations that benefit from Merrill Lynch employees' hands-on volunteer service include the Kiwanis Club of Scottsdale, The Rotary Club of Scottsdale, Beatitudes, Fiesta Bowl, Waste Not, St. Mary's Food Bank, Toys for Tots and North Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Youth Leadership award, presented by Scottsdale Active 20-30 Foundation, recognizes a teenager who exhibits leadership skills at school and within the community. Coronado High School senior **Melissa Conrad** is president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Don PRIDE, a club that brings awareness and respect to individual differences. She is also the captain of her varsity volleyball and softball teams. Conrad's proudest achievement is creating a freshman transitions class for Don PRIDE where she provides peer mentoring on the topic of diversity and inclusion. Melissa is vice president of Health Occupation Students of America, treasurer for Interact Club, and active in both the National Honors Society and Key Club. One of Conrad's favorite volunteer experiences is as camp counselor for Unitown, a leadership development and diversity appreciation program. Conrad plans to study human anatomy at The University of Arizona and aspires to become a doctor so she can provide much needed medical care to under-served people around the world.

Tickets are $90; Scottsdale Leadership dues-paid alumni are $75. Tickets can be purchased online at www.scottsdaleleadership.org or by calling 480-627-6710.

Editor's Note: Headshots of the award winners are available at: www. Dropbox.Com/SL

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Since 1987, Scottsdale Leadership has graduated more than 850 individuals who are prepared to take on leadership roles in an ever-changing world. Scottsdale Leadership alumni have had a significant impact on the Scottsdale community, spearheading preservation of open space; improving the education system; championing public art; mentoring at-risk youth; and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities. For more information call the Scottsdale Leadership office at 480-627-6710 or visit, www.ScottsdaleLeadership.org.