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Scottsdale Leadership hands out annual awards

3 individuals, SRP honored at luncheon



Scottsdale Leadership Spirit of Community awardees Rosemary Gannon (left), who accepted the award for SRP; Gary Shapiro, Karlene McCauley and Doreen Reinke.

Scottsdale Leadership

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By Lois McFarland
Special for The Republic | azcentral.com
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Four-hundred people honored Gary Shapiro, Doreen Reinke, Karlene McCauley and the Salt River Project for their dedication to Scottsdale at the 14th annual Spirit of Community Leadership Awards Luncheon on Dec. 13 at the Doubletree Resort by Hilton at Paradise Valley.

“The Spirit of Community Leadership is much more than the title of an event,” said Scottsdale Leadership Executive Director George Martinez. “It is the reason we exist and the focal point for all we do. Our luncheon passionately reaffirms our purpose by celebrating people who exemplify greatness in leadership.”

The organization has more than 900 alumni, many of whom have served on non-profit boards or city commissions, including three current City Council



members — Virginia Korte, Linda Milhaven and Dennis Robbins. The corporate award recipient, SRP, has been one of Leadership’s major supporters with 16 employees graduating from the program.

The corporate award was presented to SRP by Henkel Consumer Goods. “Learning how local and state government work is very important as we tackle the issues facing our community,” said SRP public affairs officer Peter Hayes. “Leadership is characterized by passion, commitment and vision.”

The Drinkwater Leadership Award, presented by Merrill Lynch, commemorates the late Mayor Herb Drinkwater’s commitment to Scottsdale in volunteer leadership roles and community service.

Drinkwater recipient Gary Shapiro, a Scottsdale Realtor for four decades, began his interest in community service about 30 years ago as a member of Valley Leadership’s Class 5. He served as a board chairman of Scottsdale Leadership in 1988.

Shapiro compared leadership to a television game show. “Some contestants struggle, they just don’t know which door to pick,” he said. “Leaders, on the other hand, handle things differently. They see opportunity with all three doors, they’re not reluctant to pick a door and they know once they go through the door, they can make a difference.”

The Frank W. Hodges Alumni Achievement Award, presented by Prestige Cleaners, was awarded to Class 17 graduate Doreen Reinke, vice president of operations for Scottsdale Insurance Co. She served five years on Leadership’s board including president in 2010-11 and now serves on the advisory board.

A member of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce board, Reinke said: “Scottsdale Leadership provided me with the knowledge to take volunteer service from logic and take it to the heart. When you give from the heart, you give so much more of yourself.”

Karlene “Karly” McCauley, an Arcadia High School senior and student body president, with a 4.69 GPA, received the Youth Leadership Award, presented by Scottsdale Active 20-30 Foundation. This award recognizes a youth for outstanding leadership in school and the community.

McCauley, a founder of Arcadia’s Student Advisory Board, serves as treasurer of the district-level Student Advisory Board and is a varsity soccer player at Arcadia. She has volunteered more than 200 hours with the National Charity League’s mother-daughter philanthropy.

“Leadership is key to a society,” she said. “It creates forward movement and it creates change and innovation. Without leadership, what would we be?”

The mission of Scottsdale Leadership “is to inform, inspire and empower leaders to champion and strengthen the interests of the community,” said the organization’s president, Carol Damasco, who also is Scottsdale’s library director.

Graduates are prepared to volunteer in a leadership capacity and exemplify the concept of community stewardship,” she added. “Developing community leaders is an awesome responsibility and I am proud to say that Scottsdale Leadership has one of the finest leadership programs of its kind in the nation.”

For information, call 480-627-6710 or e-mail info@scottsdaleleadership.org.



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