

HPAC Executive Board

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Hispanic Professional Action Committee

HPAC is a non-profit, non-partisan; Tucson based organization that seeks to promote activities that enhance the well being of Hispanics through advocacy and leadership development opportunities.

HPAC sponsors and co-sponsor political and educational forums as well as sessions with principals on key issues. The yearly awards are meant to both acknowledge and encourage continued work to promote employment and educational enhancement for Hispanics.

Visit our website <http://hpactucson.org/>



HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 89 Tucson, AZ 85702

Holiday celebration

Thursday, December 13, 2007

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The University of Arizona

Jim Click Hall of Champions- McKale Memorial Center

Awards Presentations at 6:30

We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own. – Cesar Chavez

This year's award recipients have worked to advance the condition of Hispanics. They have long histories of service, collaboration and community building. Their work is focused on the prosperity of the community rather than themselves and they have inspired others into action.

Organization Community Service Award

The Rotary Clubs of Tucson and Dr. Peter Likins are acknowledged for their vision and collaboration on the "Building the Future" program. Rotary Clubs of Tucson embarked on a journey to support underprivileged students enrolled in C.E. Rose's third-grade class of 1998. They partnered with then president Peter Likins and the UA. A number of organizations supported students with mentoring and tutoring. Many participants are now enrolled at either UA or Pima Community College. This model project involved the community and empowered these students to work hard to prepare for college.

Special Community Service Award

Peter Likins, president emeritus of The University of Arizona, is being recognized for his part in this innovative and life changing project. Without Dr. Likins' pledge of 101 tuition scholarships, the program would not have been possible.

Individual Community Service Award

In 2002, Sherri Romanoski began distribution of the cancer information package called BAG IT. A simple bag full of information provides hope along with education to individuals newly diagnosed with cancer. It helps them and their families cope with the cancer diagnosis and empower them to become active members of their own cancer treatment team. Information is presented in both English and Spanish and continues to be put together in Sherri's kitchen has served more than 2,000 people. While the bag is full of information, the most important thing it provides is caring and support. Sherri's work and BAG IT are an important example of how to be proactive and turn a difficult situation into a way of helping others.

Lucero "Rising Star" Award

Rudy McCormick, associate director of the Early Academic Outreach program, has a strong record of advocacy, service, leadership and dedication to the success of young people. McCormick, a Sunnyside High School graduate, understands incoming students, who remind him of his own experience. He knows what it is like to step on campus for the first time with little understanding of university systems. He has worked his way up the UA ranks starting as a student aide. He is known for his wisdom and kindness and is an inspiration to the students he works with. He is inspired by the families he works with, and their strong belief in education and how they make this their first priority. Rudy is proud of parents who after working all day, sometimes two jobs, come to two-hour workshops to learn about college.

Woman of the Year Award

Lori Tochihara, director of the UA's Early Academic Outreach Program is acknowledged for her unending commitment to the education and advancement of low-income, underrepresented, first-generation students. Ms. Tochihara is known for her energy, drive and enthusiasm. Her efforts are invaluable and have been conduits for success for many students. Under Ms. Tochihara's direction, the Early Academic Outreach Office has developed and implemented many award winning programs with positive impacts on disadvantaged populations. They are responsible for creating educational opportunities and success for countless students.

Man of the Year Award

Raul Trevizo, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and vicar of the Diocese of Tucson, began his career as a teacher in the Tucson Unified School District. In 1991 he was ordained as a priest. He currently serves as the director for the Diocesan Commission for Hispanic Affairs. Fr. Trevizo started and promoted Casa San Vicente, to serve immigrant needs and provide outreach to the community. He is a strong advocate for immigrants and is devoted to policy reform. He works closely with the Pima County Interfaith Council, known as PCIC, to serve the social and economic needs of the southwest region of Tucson. Most recently, Trevizo worked with PCIC to establish a joint city of Tucson and St. John's parish neighborhood park. The park will be located on the parish grounds and will be shared by the parish and the city.

Medallion Award for Exemplary Lifelong Service

Lorraine Lee, executive vice president of Chicanos Por La Causa, will be awarded posthumously. For more than 25 years, Lorraine devoted herself to advocacy and social activism on behalf of Latinos, other ethnic minorities, immigrants and low-income populations. She championed equity and dignity in housing, education, employment and everyday discourse. Lee's list of accomplishments is long and varied. She is known for her unflinching dedication to social causes. She chaired the Pima County Board of Health subcommittee to represent residents' interests in a class action lawsuit, advocating for residents affected by a toxic solvent that leaked into Tucson's groundwater supply. This resulted in a \$84 million settlement from Hughes Missile Systems Company. Lorraine also served as affiliate chair for the National Council of La Raza, representing 4 million Latinos and 400 local chapters. Ms. Lee was a key figure, fiercely advocating for social change, but most importantly, she was a loving, generous and kind woman, a role model with a legacy of service.