

## COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARDS – 2013

**The purpose of this award(s) is to recognize organizations\* that are positively impacting their communities in ways that inspire integrity. There are two categories for this award as described below:**

- I) **Education:** Organizations honored in this category have demonstrated an ability to engage students and faculties in initiatives that significantly promote ethical behavior on Oklahoma campuses. Efforts will be assessed based on the measurable width and depth of these endeavors. For example, while monetary outreach is a consideration, the selection team will also be interested in other factors, such as the number of individuals impacted and the degree to which the initiatives have made a positive difference.
- II) **Community:** Businesses honored in this category have made significant outreach efforts that serve to uplift the community, specifically by promoting strong principles, ethical leadership and integrity. Please note that this should not be confused with the Compass Award criteria used for Corporate Social Responsibility, but is geared to fostering ethical behavior by inspiring and mobilizing members of the community toward actions that reflect Oklahoma values of integrity.

*\*Note that, because it is in everyone's best interests to promote high standards of ethical behavior, these awards are not limited to for-profit companies. For that reason, non-profits, educational and governmental institutions are welcome to apply.*

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## COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD APPLICATION - 2013

**Indicate which Community Impact Award your company is applying for:**

I. Education                        II. Community

**In less than 500 words, please describe the initiative(s) that the company has undertaken:**

Initiative

The Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits is the state's sole provider of the Standards for Excellence Program, an intensive training and executive education series developed by the Maryland Association of Nonprofits and designed to increase efficiency, transparency and managerial best practices in nonprofit organizations of all types, sizes, service and delivery models. The four-part series addresses nonprofits' mission and programs, board governance, financial reporting, human resources policies, legal compliance, fundraising ethics, public policy, advocacy and public education. In short, it is the most comprehensive capacity building program for nonprofits offered in Oklahoma.

To date, 409 organizations have graduated from the Standards for Excellence Program. Additionally, the Center was the first organization in Oklahoma to be completely certified in the Standards for Excellence, signifying that we meet all of the guidelines dictated in the program for adherence to the actual standards.

,The Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits believes that organizations operating at the highest levels of ethics and efficiency can carry out their missions more effectively, reach more people and have greater community impact. Strong boards, coupled with professional staff and volunteers, enable nonprofits to serve the community, their stakeholders and those that support them with the highest principles and most effective best practices. Standards for Excellence has become the bar by which nonprofits in Oklahoma are now judged, particularly by

corporate and foundation funding entities, and the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits continues to educate organizations statewide by offering the coursework up to 14 times each year spread among the Oklahoma City, Tulsa and rural areas of the state.

**Describe the impact that this has had on the campus or community:**

Please support your response with as much *empirical*, rather than anecdotal, data as much as possible.

**Impact**

Graduation from the Standards for Excellence Program gives organizations a crucial tool box to implement a number of guiding principles, policies and procedures to increase programmatic and service efficacy in communities. Graduates of the program regularly report to the Center the following:

- \* there is a stronger connection to mission
- \* programs are able to produce better outcomes
- \* boards are more engaged and have better understanding of roles and responsibilities
- \* fundraising is more robust, diversified and efficient
- \* HR, legal and financial policies have greater definition and adherence
- \* advocacy and public education receive better attention

In addition to organizational capacity-building, the Center has also partnered with philanthropists and funding entities (corporations and foundations) to ensure nonprofits have access to the program. The Inasmuch Foundation is a significant underwriter of the Standards for Excellence, providing scholarships to dozens of organizations each year to attend the series. Furthermore, foundations and corporations have partnered with the Center to provide their own supported organizations with training in Standards for Excellence to enhance philanthropic endeavors. Finally, several funders, including the Sarkeys Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation and the Chapman Foundations, ask if organizations have completed the Standards for Excellence Program on their applications.

The Center has also provided the Standards for Excellence Series as part of larger capacity-building initiatives in Tulsa and Muskogee. We have also taught the series in an intensive, two-day format in Lawton and Bartlesville to reach rural nonprofits.

Organizations that have completed Standards also can receive further, more in-depth training from the Center. We provide a complete board governance series three times annually. We also host a number of fundraising training workshops that address everything from major gifts to grant writing, effective stewardship and ethical resource development. The Center offers a number of financial training opportunities so that organizations can report fiduciary outcomes with accuracy and transparency.

**Please scan and attach a letter(s) of recommendation from the campus or community impacted by your company's outreach. *Please see attachments***

**APPLICANT AGREEMENT:**

- 1) Participants understand that, in addition to promoting ethical standards, the annual OK Ethics Compass Award®, *during which time the Community Impact Awards will be presented*, is also intended to raise revenue for the Consortium in order to maintain its current programs and to provide funding to the Foundation's initiatives in assisting student business ethics chapters

throughout the state. Because of the combined use of the funds, one may not be able to claim the cost of admission to the event as a charitable contribution. Please consult with your tax advisor.

- 2) **Award recipients and finalists are expected to purchase a table<sup>1</sup> for eight participants to attend the awards luncheon on May 15.** Costs for tables may be found on the Registration Form located on the OK Ethics website.

**NOTE: A 10% early bird discount will apply to reservations received before March 31.**

- 3) Award applicant understands that submissions become the property of the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium and Foundation. Applicant agrees that, in the interest of sharing best ethical practices with other organizations, OK Ethics may make these submissions public and display the company logo and photographs in promotional materials.
- 4) Applicant also gives permission for OK Ethics to conduct independent background checks. Inaccurate or misleading statements and other related misconduct by nominees will result in termination of consideration, or possibly revocation of the award if discovered after the award has been presented.
- 5) Award recipients acknowledge that photos may be taken and shared in a variety of public venues (e.g. print publications, FaceBook, etc.) Applicant holds OK Ethics, its members and officers, harmless for the use of these photos.

#### **Special Notes:**

OK Ethics reserves the right to request removal of this acknowledgement within a year's period and/or if misconduct is discovered that could tarnish the image of the award. Applicant agrees that it will not assert any claim or legal proceeding against OK Ethics or the officers if the award is revoked, regardless of the reason given.

#### **Deadline & Submission:**

**The deadline for award applications is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28.** You may scan and email your application to [warrenokla@cox.net](mailto:warrenokla@cox.net) . **The file must not be larger than 3 MB.** No applications will be accepted after that time. **Or, you may mail it to OK Ethics, P. O. Box 3174, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-3174.** (Note that applications sent to the post office box and delivered after that date will not be accepted, regardless of the postmarked date.) To arrange other delivery options, please contact Shannon Warren with OK Ethics at (405) 858-2233 at least a week prior to the deadline.

#### **COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD AGREEMENT (Continued)**

By signing below, applicant (or applicant's representative) confirms his/her authority to submit this entry on behalf of <insert name of organization>. Signature below attests that:

- 1) The information provided in this organization has been approved for submission by the appropriate authorities within the organization.
- 2) To the best of the applicant's knowledge,

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<sup>1</sup> Note that winners from certain membership ranks are not required to buy additional seats. For instance, the OK Ethics Pinnacle, Navigator and Star members demonstrate the highest level commitment to OK Ethics. These contributors are already entitled to tables at the annual Compass Awards banquet as part of their membership benefits. Compass Awards are also part of the benefits that Leading Members enjoy, while Horizon member receive a substantial discount to attend the event. See website for a list of participating companies.

- a. No untrue statement of a material fact is contained in the Application and
- b. No omission of a material fact that I am legally permitted to disclose that affects my organization's practices has been made.

**Signature:** Daniel Billingsley (e-filed)

**Printed Name:**

Daniel Billingsley

**Title:**

Director of Training & Coaching

**Applicant Name:**

Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits

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