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LEAD SAN DIEGO HONORS SIX FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

18th annual Visionary Awards celebrate leadership and those committed to moving the region forward

SAN DIEGO (Oct. 28, 2020) – LEAD San Diego is dedicated to cultivating our region’s most effective leaders, providing them with the knowledge, tools, and network to make meaningful change. Today, the organization brought together business, community, and elected leaders for the annual Visionary Awards, which were presented virtually. Six awards were presented in recognition of individuals whose passion and commitment to our community are moving the region forward.

“Leaders of all types have stepped up to find opportunity in the many challenges this year has brought and today’s event celebrates those who are showing up, every day, with their innovative ideas, collaborative approaches, and commitment to making our community a better place,” said San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jerry Sanders. LEAD is 501 (c)(3) affiliate of the Chamber. “The LEAD programs encourage leaders to put their voice into action by providing connection and community, things we all need now more than ever and are essential to creating lasting change.”

This year’s program theme “Together We LEAD” is a call for all in the community to make positive, meaningful change through leadership rooted in collaboration and understanding. The theme also highlights the community of leaders united by a shared connection to LEAD programs and how each of us plays a unique and important role in making a difference in the world.

“At LEAD we are creating a powerful network of leaders who are ready to meet the needs of the moment and be changemakers for good,” said LEAD Board Chair Robin Toft, CEO of Toft Group, a ZRG Company. “While leadership doesn’t look the same for everyone, everyone can lead. The LEAD programs provide the tools that empower leaders at all levels to embrace their leadership role, whatever it may be.”

In addition to the awards ceremony, Congressman Scott Peters, a 1995 LEAD graduate, delivered remarks about the importance of leadership in bringing our communities together for positive change.

Six local leaders were recognized for their contributions to the region’s growth and potential through their time, talent, and innovation. This year’s Visionary Award honorees:

- Neil Morgan Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement – Congressman Susan Davis
 - LEAD Graduate of the Year award - Sofia Salgado Robitaille, Executive Director, Southwestern
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College Foundation

- Innovation and Economic Opportunity Award - Mike Krenn, CEO, CONNECT
- Ronald Kendrick Memorial Award for Regional Collaboration - Rudolph A. Johnson III, President & CEO, Neighborhood House Association
- Charles Nathanson Memorial Award for Cross-Border Region Building - Roxana Velásquez, Executive Director, San Diego Museum of Art
- 2020 Community Spotlight Award - San Diego Police Officer Chris Jones, founder of the Young and Prosperous Foundation

The 2020 Visionary Awards are sponsored by U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo, ABC 10News San Diego, SDG&E, Bank of America, Toft Group Executive Search, Southwest Airlines, Jones & Associates Consulting, Inc., Qualcomm, National University, U.C. San Diego, Moss Adams, University of Phoenix, Hunter Industries, The San Diego Union-Tribune, Union Bank, Cox Communications, VetPowered LLC., Reality Changers, Intesa Communications, U.S. Bank, Comic-Con Museum, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Tourism Authority, Sharp Healthcare, Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, Nikki & Ben Clay, Options for All, Marsh & McLennan Companies, San Diego State University, Torrey Pines Bank, Promises2Kids, General Dynamics NASSCO, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, and Mitsubishi Cement Corporation.

For highlights from the 2020 Visionary Awards, search the hashtag #TogetherWeLEAD on social media.

About LEAD San Diego

LEAD San Diego aims to create a network of leaders equipped with the skills, insight, and passion needed to work collaboratively across industries and issues to positively transform their communities and country.

As the nonpartisan, leadership development arm of the San Diego Regional Chamber, LEAD San Diego offers a diverse suite of programs designed to mobilize leaders by enhancing knowledge of key regional issues, strengthening personal leadership skills and establishing strong community connections. For more information, please visit sdchamber.org/lead.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to make the San Diego region the best place to live and work. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.