



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Frank Fairbanks and Christine Wilkinson named 2009 Valley Leadership Man & Woman of the Year

**PHOENIX (Dec. 16, 2009)** - Valley Leadership has named Frank Fairbanks, recently retired Phoenix City Manager, and Christine Wilkinson, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Secretary of Arizona State University, its 2009 Man & Woman of the Year. Their outstanding accomplishments and visionary leadership will be celebrated at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Man and Woman of the Year Awards luncheon to be held March 25, 2010, at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, 340 N. Third St.

Past award recipients include former Arizona State University President Lattie Coor, the late Sen. Barry Goldwater, Pinnacle West lobbyist Martin Shultz, Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center Co-founder Denise D. Resnik, former Secretary of State Betsey Bayless, Valle del Sol President and CEO Luz Sarmina and former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Mr. Fairbanks began his career in civil service for Phoenix in 1972. Since 1990, his two-decade long held position as the city manager of Phoenix has been marked with distinction as Mr. Fairbanks has used this role of leadership to guide Phoenix with dedication, integrity and compassion through both prosperous and hard times. He has shaped the City of Phoenix to be internationally recognized as one of the best-managed cities in the world, all while maintaining a humility and graciousness toward the 14,000 city employees whom he credits for this success. He retired from the office of City Manager in October 2009 amid much acclaim for the contributions he has made.

In addition to his service for the City of Phoenix, Mr. Fairbanks is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and serves on the board of the Downtown Phoenix Partnership. He has served on the Arizona Housing Fund Board, and as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee of the International City/County Management Association. He also is active in Public Technology Incorporated, an organization that develops technological solutions to urban problems.

Dr. Wilkinson has significantly expanded her roles as Senior Vice President and Secretary of Arizona State University, as well as President of the Alumni Association to that of personal mentor and friend to countless students, faculty, administrators, community members and alumni throughout her three decade long association with the University. She is recognized as being a strong advocate of student leadership, guiding and fostering the potential of so many of the Valley's future leaders.

Dr. Wilkinson's influence has reached the community far beyond her official position with ASU. She has been actively engaged with and served on a long list of Valley nonprofit boards including: Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association, Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation and ASU Foundation's Women & Philanthropy Program.

Honorees were chosen by a committee comprised of past award recipients, members of Valley Leadership and a select group of its past presidents.

This is the 61<sup>st</sup> year for the Man & Woman of the Year award.

Valley Leadership is now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year of bringing leadership development programs to the men, women and youth in the Valley that serve to strengthen the community. They provide opportunities to learn, network and engage in shaping our community through the difficult challenges that it is faced with today. Please visit [www.valleyleadership.org](http://www.valleyleadership.org) for more information.

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