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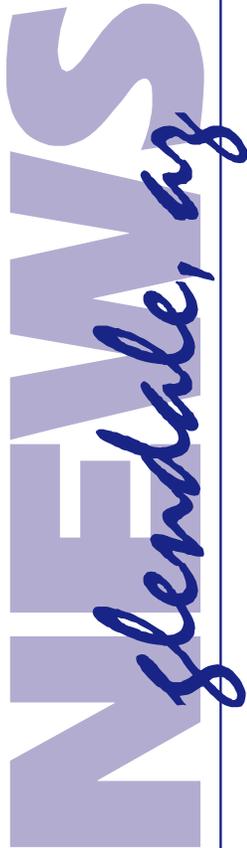
GLENDALE'S ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS VALLEY FORWARD AWARDS

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Glendale's Conservation & Sustainable Living Program has been honored by Valley Forward with the Crescordia Award. More than 130 entries were received in Arizona's oldest and most prestigious awards competition focusing exclusively on environmental initiatives. Winners were announced Sept.17 at Valley Forward's awards gala attended by more than 600 community leaders.

The newly established Glendale office of Conservation and Sustainable Living (CSL) provides programs to educate residents, businesses and neighborhoods about good environmental practices. At the outset, staff focused on acquiring grants, establishing partnerships and building a strong volunteer/intern program to create a successful program. Within its first two years, CSL obtained two federal grants, enabling the city to offer Green Living classes with free incentives, hire a contract energy education specialist to initiate the city's energy conservation programs in schools (patterned after the highly successful water education program) as well as establish a 10,000-square-foot Tree Trail at the Glendale Xeriscape Demonstration Garden.

In addition, Glendale has created partnerships to enhance programming and bring attention to local community resources. Through a partnership with APS, more than 500 desert trees have been distributed to attendees at tree care workshops.

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Glendale CSL has also developed a valuable volunteer and intern program. Volunteers assist with Discovery Station school presentations, give tours of the Glendale Demonstration Garden and Tree Trail and provide staffing for events such as the Glendale Green Festival. Arizona State University interns assist with a variety of projects, including a two-year project to develop individual water budgets for 78 city parks, resulting in a 20 percent reduction in park water use.

Grants, partnerships and a strong volunteer/intern program ensure that every budgeted dollar (\$1) generates a \$3 or more value in direct benefits, services and programming to the public. The program's two-year results include (*EPA calculators):

- 905 families saving 10 million gallons of water annually from program incentives*
- 720 families saving \$1.5 million by using free energy-saving devices (life cycle savings)*
- 68 classrooms benefiting from more than \$10,665 in science-based teaching materials
- 20,000 visiting the green webpage; 3,650 residents attending a green-living event
- More than 900 hours provided annually by volunteers/interns

Glendale's CSL programs are now part of the Water Services Department. Executive Director of Water Services Craig Johnson said: "I would like to congratulate the Conservation and Sustainable Living division for this outstanding achievement. Their professional educational approach to promoting sustainable living through water and energy conservation and landscape practices has had a significant impact throughout our entire community."

Recognition for Glendale's environmental efforts did not stop with just one award, however; two other projects received a Merit Award from Valley Forward. LEA Architects, LLC was honored in the category of Buildings and Structures: Industrial and Public Works for the Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center. In addition, Glendale's newly-dedicated Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge at Loop 101 and 63rd Avenue was honored in the category of Site Development and Landscape: Trails. Glendale's new pedestrian bridge connects

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residents living north of Loop 101 to the Valley's trails system. The cable-stayed bridge over the freeway is unique to Arizona, and the grade-separated crossing under the frontage road attests to Glendale's continued efforts in providing multi-modal transportation options for its residents.

Valley Forward is a non-profit public interest organization that brings business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to improve the environment and livability of Valley communities.

For more information on Glendale's Conservation & Sustainable Living programs and all the city's environmental efforts, visit www.glendaleaz.com/green. For more information on Valley Forward and the awards program, visit www.valleyforward.org.

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