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ARIZONA FORWARD PRESENTS TOP ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD TO GRAND CANYON TRUST VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PHOENIX (Sept. 14, 2013) The Grand Canyon Trust Volunteer Program has earned the coveted *President's Award* (Best of Show) in Arizona Forward's 33rd annual Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Awards, held in partnership with SRP.

Since its inception in 2005, the Grand Canyon Trust Volunteer Program has grown to more than 3,000 individuals donating more than 18,000 hours to approximately 25 science-based conservation projects annually. Its work is evident on public and Native American lands throughout northern Arizona. Volunteers build and maintain fences to benefit wildlife and wetlands on the Arizona Strip, close roads to protect landscapes, and have documented more than 800 rare and endemic plant species at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

More than 110 entries were received in Arizona's oldest and most prestigious awards competition focusing exclusively on sustainability. Winners were announced Sept. 14 at Arizona Forward's awards gala attended by more than 600 community leaders at The Phoenician Resort in Scottsdale.

Arizona Forward and SRP presented 16 first-place Crescordia winners and 33 Awards of Merit. The awards set standards for achieving a balance between the built and natural environment in the region's physical, technical, social and aesthetic development.

Jurists selected the Grand Canyon Trust Volunteer Program for this year's top honor because the program cultivates future conservation stewards by sponsoring youth internships and field trips. By empowering younger generations to speak and act as environmental advocates for social change on the Colorado Plateau, the program helps ensure the sustainability of Arizona's most iconic and important natural assets.

The project also won a first-place Crescordia Award in the *Environmental Stewardship (SRP Award) – Northern Arizona* category. This is the first year Arizona Forward opened the program to statewide submittals in this category. Crescordia is a Greek term meaning, "to grow in harmony," and the President's Award is selected from among all Crescordia recipients.

"Collaboration among public and private sector interests, volunteerism and environmental education are key themes among this year's winning projects," said Diane Brossart, president and CEO of Arizona Forward. "Sustainability is clearly at the forefront in our state, and it's inspiring to preview such innovative programs directed at preserving natural resources – air, water, open space and our unique desert environment."

Only three projects received awards in multiple categories this year. One was the DARTS building, originally constructed in 1969 and completely renovated by Gabor Lorant Architects with modern enhancements and sustainable features. The building itself won a first-place Crescordia award in the *Buildings and Structures - Commercial & Mixed Use* category and the updated landscaping features received an Award of Merit in the *Site Development and Landscape - Private Sector* category.

Double honors also went to Gordon Estates, a subdivision by Mandalay Homes constructed through Phoenix's Neighborhood Stabilization Program. This vacant, foreclosed subdivision in south Phoenix was completely renovated to erase neighborhood blight and is now the most highly rated and certified green subdivisions in the country. Its affordable homes boast an average estimated electric bill of \$50 per month. The Phoenix program won a first-place in the *Livable Communities - Sustainable Communities* category and the subdivision earned an Award of Merit in *Buildings and Structures – Residential*.

PHX Sky Train also won multiple awards, a Crescordia in *Livable Communities – Multi Modal Transportation & Connectivity* for its stature as the only LEED Gold certified transit campus in the world and merit recognition for *Art in Public Places*.

Steve Thompson, former senior vice president for Wells Fargo and the 2007 Chair of the Board for Valley/Arizona Forward, served as lead judge for the competition. Other jurists include: Ron Epperson, Intellectual Energy; Jeanne Forbis, Intel Corporation; Tim Kinney, Kinney Construction; Larry Kornegay, Kornegay Design; Dan Litteral, University of Phoenix/Apollo Group; Irene Ogata, City of Tucson and the American Society of Landscape Architects; Nick Taratsas, DMB Associates; and Kurt Wadlington, Sundt Construction.

Since its inception in 1969 as Valley Forward, Arizona Forward has brought business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to improve the sustainability of communities throughout the Grand Canyon State. The organization operates with the belief that businesses must take a leadership role in solving the complex and sometimes controversial problems that confront growing population centers.

A complete list of Crescordia winners include:

ENCORE ON FARMER (Oklad Construction)

Encore on Farmer is a 56-unit housing community at West Sixth Street and South Farmer Avenue in Tempe on a former industrial site adjacent to an active rail line. The transformed site is now an urban-infill, transit-oriented development located just a few blocks from the downtown Tempe light rail station and other amenities.

TOM'S THUMB TRAILHEAD IN THE SCOTTSDALE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE (Fucello Architects)

This remarkably sustainable civic building charters new territory not just for its environmental integration, but for its self-sufficiency, as the site is not connected to conventional municipal infrastructure. With no water, sewer or electric services, the project demanded rethinking a common public utilitarian building type, from design to long-term facility operation.

1891 SECOND PINAL COUNTY COURTHOUSE REHABILITATION

(Pinal County Board of Supervisors)

The Second Pinal County Courthouse was built in 1891 and is an extraordinary example of the American-Victorian style of nineteenth century construction technology on the Southwestern frontier. The courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is Arizona's oldest government building in use.

DARTS (Gabor Lorant Architects)

Originally built in 1969, the DARTS Building was recently updated with sustainable features, including a sophisticated and efficient variable refrigerant flow HVAC system, double-glazed replacement windows and enhanced insulation. A 12-kilowatt solar photovoltaic array is slated to be installed this fall.

FIRESIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (DLR Group)

Paradise Valley Unified School District set out to construct a nearly net-zero elementary school that could produce as much energy and water as it consumes. Fireside Elementary School does just that and also serves as a teaching tool to educate students about water and energy conservation. It is the most energy-efficient and cost-effective facility in the district, saving taxpayer dollars while demonstrating the benefits of sustainable design.

STABILIZING PHOENIX NEIGHBORHOODS USING SUSTAINABLE GREEN STANDARDS &

STRATEGIES (City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department)

The city of Phoenix's Neighborhood Stabilization Program demonstrates a commitment to sustainable communities in the hardest hit areas affected by vacant and abandoned, foreclosed properties. The program incorporates innovative technologies, building methods and environmentally conscious practices to create green affordable homes conveniently located near transit, community resources and other amenities.

THE SKY TRAIN™/ PHOENIX SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

(City of Phoenix Aviation Department)

Providing a vital transit link and facilitating adjacent development opportunities and livability for the community, the automated PHX Sky Train makes it easier for travelers to connect between METRO Light Rail and the airport. Currently with 10,000 users a day, it is expected to reduce vehicular traffic accessing the airport by 20 percent and emissions by an estimated 6,000 tons in the first year of operation. It has been LEED Gold certified and is the only public transportation campus in the world to receive this honor.

WESTWING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (EPG)

This innovative project transformed a 23-acre vacant lot into a valuable, functional and environmentally responsive neighborhood park. It serves as the trailhead for the popular Sunrise Mountain Trail and is the first park in Arizona to use solar energy for its entire exterior site lighting needs. The park provides much needed recreational opportunities while protecting the natural desert riparian wash and native habitat onsite.

NODAL WATER GARDEN (Scottsdale Public Art)

Commissioned by Scottsdale Public Art for the first Canal Convergence event at Scottsdale's Waterfront, Nodal Water Garden by Jeff Zischke celebrates the strategic and economic role canals have played in the Valley's growth. The history of canal development is depicted by interconnected nodes, with each of the illuminated shapes representing the life canals have fostered and energy the system generates.

DVL UAV RAINWATER HARVESTING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT

(Desert View Landscape, LLC)

This new U.S. Green Building Council LEED Gold certified training facility on the southern Arizona Fort Huachuca Army base was commissioned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. To meet these specific requirements, Tempe-based Desert View Landscape created a unique water conservation scheme that captured rainwater runoff in 8,000 gallon tanks to service the building's domestic and landscape needs.

PEPSICO TOLLESON SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM (PepsiCo)

Embracing its corporate citizen duty with an aggressive focus on sustainable growth, PepsiCo actively seeks ways to generate clean energy, conserve natural resources, improve its recycling methods and boost the health and wellness of more than 500 employees at its Tolleson Manufacturing and Distribution Center.

CITY OF AVONDALE SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (City of Avondale)

The city of Avondale this year commissioned its first solar project, a 12-kilowatt system mounted on an existing vehicle shade structure outside the Civic Center Library. It's designed to provide energy to the library that partially offsets electricity costs and reduces the city's greenhouse gas emissions. To enhance awareness of the project, Avondale installed interactive, educational kiosks at its library and city hall, displaying information about the system's output, current weather and sustainability-related news.

RIVER PATHWAYS (Audubon Arizona)

Audubon Arizona's River Pathways program is designed to introduce inner-city youth to one of Arizona's most precious resources – its rivers. This robust program exposes students to a variety of environmental science professions and encourages them to pursue careers in conservation. Since its inception in 2009, the program has brought more than 1,000 students into the field and reached countless more in classrooms. These students are now conservationists, sustaining Arizona's resources for generations.

WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (Arizona Wilderness Coalition)

Arizona Wilderness Coalition's field-based volunteer initiative — the AWC Wilderness Stewardship Program (affectionately called "Wild Stew") — focuses on connecting citizens with wild places through on-the-ground projects designed to maintain and restore wilderness on federal public lands. Wild Stew volunteers are specially trained to trek into and monitor Arizona's 90 wilderness areas, collecting invaluable data that the U.S. Forest Service has limited staff and fiscal resources to accomplish.

GRAND CANYON TRUST VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (Grand Canyon Trust)

Since its inception in 2005, the Grand Canyon Trust Volunteer Program has grown to more than 3,000 individuals donating more than 18,000 hours to approximately 25 science-based conservation projects annually. Its work is evident on public and Native American lands throughout northern Arizona. Volunteers build and maintain fences to benefit wildlife and wetlands on the Arizona Strip, close roads to protect landscapes, and have documented more than 800 rare and endemic plant species at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER - UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK

(Tucson Electric Power)

The innovative Solar Zone at the University of Arizona Science and Technology Park in southeastern Tucson is a leading center for testing, evaluation and demonstration of new solar technology in a commercial context. This unique research facility unique offers real-time market analysis unavailable at other laboratories. At approximately 170 acres and costing \$100 million, the Solar Zone is the largest multi-technology solar evaluation site in the country.

****EDITOR'S NOTE: Project photos, additional details and Award of Merit descriptions can be provided upon request.***

A complete list of 2013 Environmental Excellence Award Winners and categories are included below and on the pages that follow.

2013 ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES - Residential

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Encore on Farmer

Submitted by: Okland Construction

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Gordon Estates

Submitted by: Mandalay Homes

Name of Entry: Lofts at McKinley

Submitted by: Gorman & Company, Inc.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES – Civic

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Tom's Thumb Trailhead in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve

Submitted by: Fucello Architects

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: LEED Platinum Phoenix Fire Station No. 59

Submitted by: LEA-Architects, LLC

Name of Entry: Maricopa County South Court Tower

Submitted by: Gilbane Building Company

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES – Historic Preservation

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: 1891 Second Pinal County Courthouse Rehabilitation

Submitted by: Pinal County Board of Supervisors

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: EMCC Buckeye Educational Center at 1928 BUHS A-Wing

Submitted by: Michael Wilson Kelly - Architects, Ltd.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES – Commercial & Mixed Use

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: DARTS

Submitted by: Gabor Lorant Architects Inc.

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: 4400 Civic Center

Submitted by: John Douglas Architects

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES – Institutional

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Fireside Elementary School

Submitted by: DLR Group

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Central Arizona College - Superstition Mountain Campus

Submitted by: Adolfson & Peterson Construction

Name of Entry: University of Arizona Health Sciences Education Building

Submitted by: Ayers Saint Gross

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES – Industrial & Public Works

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: City of Phoenix - Corona Service Yard

Submitted by: Gabor Lorant Architects Inc.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES – Sustainable Communities

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Stabilizing Phoenix Neighborhoods Using Sustainable Green Standards and Strategies

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Aeroterra Redevelopment Project

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Housing Department

Name of Entry: PHX Renews

Submitted by: Keep Phoenix Beautiful

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES – Adaptive Reuse

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Canvas Cornor

Submitted by: C & H Associates

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES – Multimodal Transportation & Connectivity

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: The Sky Train Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Aviation Department

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: City of Avondale Zoom Neighborhood Circulator

Submitted by: City of Avondale

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES - Public Policy/Plans

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: General Plan 2030

Submitted by: City of Avondale

Name of Entry: Sustainable Community Master Plan for the Navajo Nation

Submitted by: Swaback Partners, pllc

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE – Public Sector

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Centennial Way Federal Aid Transportation Enhancement

Submitted by: Achen-Gardner Construction, LLC

Name of Entry: City of Peoria Green Campus

Submitted by: City of Peoria

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE – Private Sector

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: DARTS

Submitted by: Gabor Lorant Architects Inc.

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE – Trails

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Skip Rimsza Paseo in the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve

Submitted by: City of Phoenix

Name of Entry: Scottsdale Via Dona Trail

Submitted by: City of Scottsdale

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE - Parks

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Westwing Neighborhood Park

Submitted by: EPG

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Avondale Community Garden

Submitted by: City of Avondale

Name of Entry: Downtown Owls

Submitted by: Audubon Arizona

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Nodal Water Garden

Submitted by: Scottsdale Public Art

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: HI-BROW

Submitted by: Colab Studio, LLC

Name of Entry: PHX Sky Train Terminal 4 Connector Bridges Glass Mural Project, by Artist Daniel Mayer

Submitted by: Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES – Public Sector

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: DVL UAV Rainwater Harvesting Innovative Technologies Project

Submitted by: Desert View Landscape, LLC

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Surface Aeration for the Removal of Disinfection Byproducts from Drinking Water

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Water Services Department

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES - Private Sector

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: PepsiCo Tolleson Sustainability Program

Submitted by: PepsiCo

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Inovus

Submitted by: Strategies 360

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION – Public Sector

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: City of Avondale Solar Demonstration Project

Submitted by: City of Avondale

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Chandler Water Audit Program

Submitted by: City of Chandler

Name of Entry: Do More Blue (Jeans)

Submitted by: Town of Queen Creek

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION – Educators, Students & Nonprofits

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: River Pathways

Submitted by: Audubon Arizona

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – Central Arizona

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Wilderness Stewardship Program

Submitted by: Arizona Wilderness Coalition

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: McDowell Sonoran Field Institute Citizen-Science Program

Submitted by: Daniel G. Gruber

Name of Entry: Janice Miano

Submitted by: Arizona Heritage Alliance

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP - Northern Arizona

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Grand Canyon Trust Volunteer Program

Submitted by: Grand Canyon Trust

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Chip Norton

Submitted by: Jane Whitmire, Ph.D.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – Southern Arizona

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Tucson Electric Power - University of Arizona Science and Technology Park

Submitted by: Tucson Electric Power

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Trees for Tucson

Submitted by: Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Inc.

Name of Entry: Pima County Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations

Submitted by: Pima County

PRESIDENT'S AWARD (Best of Show)

Name of Entry: Grand Canyon Trust Volunteer Program

Submitted by: Grand Canyon Trust

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