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Press Advisory

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2001 Citizens' Environmental Coalition Synergy Awards A Night to Celebrate Environmental Progress

On Tuesday, October 2nd, 2001 the Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC) Synergy Awards and 30th anniversary celebration will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Medical Center.

It is no secret that the Houston/Gulf Coast region faces enormous challenges as it seeks to balance sound economic growth with sound environmental practices. As part of its effort to foster dialogue, education and collaboration on environmental issues, the CEC created the Synergy Awards, a lively evening that focuses not on all the problems but on the progress that has been made in recent years. Now in their fifth year, these awards recognize achievement, hard work, and/or resourceful stewardship in a broad spectrum of environmental endeavors.

Who: The CEC, Award Recipients, Supporters and Houston Community

What: The 2001 Synergy Awards For Environmental Excellence

When: Tuesday, October 2, 2001 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Where: The Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Houston Medical Center

This year's winners are:

Army and Sarah Emmott Conservation Award - Houston Green Coalition

The Houston Green Coalition is a group of regional government, business, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting and enhancing the tree canopy in the region.

Community Activist Award - Brandt Mannchen

Native Houstonian Brandt Mannchen was a founding member of the Galveston-Houston Association for Smog Prevention (GHASP) and has volunteered with the Sierra Club since 1976.

Corporate Environmental Awareness Award - Equistar and Lyondell

When approached by concerned citizens, Equistar and Lyondell, two Channelview chemical companies, joined the Source Reduction Project, a community-industry partnership that has significantly reduced emissions from both facilities.

Environmental Education Award - Linda Knight

Linda Knight directs the Rice/HISD Model Science Laboratory Project housed at Lanier Middle School. This year she organized more than 60 classrooms to participate in the Clean Air Challenge.

Citizens' Environmental Coalition

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Founders' Award - Wendy Kelsey

Wendy Kelsey helped found and worked for six years as Associate Director of Urban Harvest (UH), a nonprofit community garden and orchard program.

Government Award - Doug Lipka, Ph.D.

Doug Lipka has directed the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Environmental Laboratory in Houston for six years. Lipka currently works with several grass-roots groups that are organizing citizen air quality monitoring projects.

Lifetime Achievement Award - Terry and Jake Hershey

Terry Hershey began her conservation career in 1966, when she was instrumental in stopping the channelization of Buffalo Bayou. Since then, she has fought for numerous causes to preserve and enhance parks and waterways. In the process, Hershey helped build many local environmental organizations. The Hersheys together established the Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation, dedicated to conservation efforts.

Media Award – John and Gloria Tveten

John and Gloria Tveten are most known around town for their weekly column, "Nature Trails," which appeared in the Houston Chronicle for more than 24 years.

President's Award – Stephen Klineberg, Ph.D.

Since immigrating to Houston from the East Coast in 1971, Stephen Klineberg has been monitoring the way Houstonians think. Through papers and lectures, Klineberg uses his survey results to advocate that, if Houston is to thrive in the modern world, city leaders must redevelop their views on individualism and deal responsibly with collective issues.

A social hour including cocktails and hors d'oeuvres begins at 6:30 pm. Ned Hibberd from Fox 26 News will be the Master of Ceremonies for the evening's events. The awards ceremony is scheduled from 8 to 9:30, with comic interludes from Esther's Follies, an Austin-based comedy troupe. Tickets cost \$55 for individuals and \$400 for a table of six; the price includes parking. This event will include excellent photo opportunities. For more information, contact Alesha Herrera at 713.523.6135 or the CEC at 713.524.4232. Further information can be found on the CEC website at www.cechouston.org.

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