



NEWS RELEASE

3 WINNERS CHOSEN FOR GABE ZIMMERMAN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS Center for the Future of Arizona to Honor Outstanding Public Servants at Citizenship Conference

PHOENIX (Sept. 9, 2011) – Karen Osborne, Ron Barber and Matthew Bauer have been named the inaugural winners of the Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Awards and will be honored at the 66th National Conference on Citizenship to be held in Arizona on September 22 and 23.

Sponsored by the Center for the Future of Arizona, the Gabe Zimmerman Awards are a statewide competition created in spring 2011 to recognize the role of non-elected public servants as the critical link between citizens and the people elected to represent them. They are named in honor of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' director of community outreach, who lost his life on January 8 while serving the citizens of Arizona.

The Zimmerman honorees will be recognized at the conference general session at 9 a.m., Friday, September 23 at the Memorial Union on Arizona State University's Tempe campus. Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon will provide the welcoming remarks. This is the first time the National Conference on Citizenship is being held outside Washington, D.C.

With the support of the Zimmerman family, the center is proud to recognize the inaugural honorees, who exhibit exemplary public service to Arizona and the country every day.

ABOUT THE WINNERS

Karen Osborne is receiving the 2011 Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Award for Leadership. As director of elections for Maricopa County, Osborne administers all federal, county and jurisdictional elections. She supervises early voting, polling sites, campaign finance, voter registration, ballot layout and petitions. Osborne is also responsible for ballot signature verifications and for redrawing lines for voting precincts and districts. Maricopa County is the second largest voting jurisdiction in the United States, with 1.9 million active registered voters.

According to the nomination submitted on Osborne's behalf, "Karen has been Arizona's most credible and supremely respected election official for decades, a guardian of democracy, one of the highly principled servants who restored Arizona's competence and credibility after a series of scandals in the 1980's." Osborne's nomination continues, "One of these days, I'll write a piece about good bureaucrats who actually serve the public. I haven't done it yet because I've been short of material. When I do, Karen will be at the top of the list."

(more)

Ron Barber has been selected to receive the 2011 Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Award for Civic Engagement. Barber has been serving the public at state, local and federal offices for more than 30 years. He was director of Headstart in Southern Arizona and director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division of Developmental Disabilities prior to joining Congresswoman Giffords' staff in January 2007, where he was responsible for building the team during her transition into Congress.

Barber's nomination highlights his selfless dedication to his work and the people around him. "Ron always puts others first, both in moments of crisis and day-to-day," it reads. "He has spent most of his career serving some of the most vulnerable members of our community and he applies the same compassion to the constituents he serves on behalf of Congresswoman Giffords."

Matt Bauer will receive the 2011 Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Award for Innovation. As the procurement supervisor for materials management at Maricopa County, Bauer is responsible for county purchases and bidding involving a wide scope of commodities and services. Bauer has responsibility for negotiations on contracts of about \$100 million and is involved in the county's move to an electronic procurement system that will support more than \$700 million in county contracts.

Bauer's nomination notes his innovative success in implementing a reverse-auction system that resulted in the county saving nearly \$1 million on one procurement. "Matt is destined to lead a new generation of change-oriented procurement officers who will innovate and reform processes. His accomplishments have already been nationally publicized, inspiring colleagues throughout America to take a second look and have the confidence to take risks, innovate. Change and improvement are his mantra. Arizona's future will be the beneficiary. "

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP (NCoC)

The National Conference on Citizenship (www.ncoc.net) was founded in 1946 and chartered by Congress in 1953. Its mission is to advance the nation's civic life. In addition to the annual National Conference on Citizenship, NCoC produces "America's Civic Health Index," an annual study that measures America's civic habits across a wide range of indicators in an effort to strengthen citizen participation in their communities, states and nation. Arizona was selected as the site for the 66th National Conference on Citizenship, the first time in its history the conference has been held outside Washington, D.C.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ARIZONA

The Center for the Future of Arizona (www.arizonafuture.org) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its mission is to help Arizonans shape and define the future through an action-oriented agenda focused on contemporary issues and topics critical to the state. More than a think tank, the center is an independent "do tank" that combines public-policy research with collaborative partnerships and initiatives that will create new opportunities for all Arizonans.

During the past 20 months, the center has systematically worked to embed the citizens' agenda described in *The Arizona We Want* report into policy planning and public discussions at both state and local levels. In addition to the Five Communities Project, the center launched the Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Awards in June 2011 to recognize outstanding service among the more than 100,000 professional employees working in all levels of Arizona government.

For more information about The Arizona We Want Institute, the Five Communities Project and the Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Awards, visit www.TheArizonaWeWant.org.

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