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TOP STORY

## Mesa Chamber recognizes businesses, people for their work

Tribune News Staff Apr 26, 2018



A.T. Still University received the Big Business of the Year Award from the Mesa Chamber of Commerce. Its east Mesa campus trains hundreds of students in osteopathic medicine.

Special to The Tribune

The Mesa Chamber of Commerce honored two longtime institutions – A.T. Still University and the Save the Family Foundation – as well as nearly a dozen businesses and individuals last Thursday at its annual Leadership Awards dinner.

A.T. Still University is the founding institution of osteopathic healthcare, established in 1892 by Andrew Taylor Still, in Missouri. It established the Arizona School of Health Sciences in 1995 and opened its Baseline Road campus in Mesa 11 years later. It received the Large Business of the Year Award.

Save the Family began serving homeless families when it acquired four housing units in 1988 and today provides a full array of support services to help homeless and impoverished families succeed – including financial literacy education, career development support, budgeting workshops, parenting classes, self-esteem coaching and children’s programs create. Last year alone, it assisted 300 families.

The Chamber gave the Mid-Size Business of the Year Award to GECO, an innovative aerospace technology company that it says “designs and manufactures safe, trusted and affordable avionics for our nation’s defense.

The Chamber noted that the 23-year-old company “provides real-world engineering experience to Mesa’s Public Schools and local universities through a robust intern program.”

Guild Mortgage Mesa, which opened in 2014 received the Small Business of the Year Award for “personalized, quality service beyond the common call center approach” and a “people-first culture.”

Rex Kimball, owner of Mirex Marketing, won the Peter Sterling Spirit of the Fight Award, named after the onetime Mesa Chamber CEO who fought brain cancer for four years before his death.

Kimball “loves working with local businesses as he gets to see the positive effects they have on the families they employ and the communities they serve,” the Chamber said, noting his extensive community involvement with several nonprofit organizations.

Jan Vitale was one of several individuals honored by the Chamber.

Named Ambassador of the Year, Vitale, owner of Lifetime Investments, has played a major role in the city’s Hydration Campaign and the Christmas in July Food Drive.

Among its awards for excellence in education, the Chamber named Madeline Chowdhury of Mesa Community College Professor of the Year and Dobson High School economics teacher Lindsay Linoff Teacher of the Year.

EmmaLee Adams, the senior class president at Mountain View High School, was named Student of the Year for her involvement in a variety of school, community and church-related organizations.