

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Recap: Leadership Legacy Awards**

**Arlington, VA** - Leadership Center for Excellence and Leadership Arlington welcomed more than 200 guests to honor Leadership Arlington's graduating Signature Program Class of 2016 and recognized this year's Leadership Center for Excellence Leadership Legacy Award recipients. The event was held at Army Navy Country Club on Wednesday, May 25.

"This is a wonderful evening for us to gather and celebrate leadership," said Betsy Frantz, President & CEO of Leadership Center for Excellence and Leadership Arlington, as she welcomed guests to the event.

Annually, Leadership Center for Excellence recognizes outstanding community leaders who promote meaningful leadership in thought and action. Award recipients are as follows:

- **Ethics Award:** [Dominion](#)
- **Community Impact Award:** [MTFA Architecture, Inc.](#)
- **Nonprofit Award:** [Offender Aid and Restoration \(OAR\)](#)



Accepting the Ethics Award on behalf of her organization was Becky Merrit, Vice President-Customer Service at Dominion. She discussed how ethics is one of Dominion's four core values along with safety, value and teamwork. "At Dominion, ethics extends past the desks and past the bucket trucks into the community," explained Merrit.



Michael Foster, Principal at MTFA Architecture, Inc., accepted the Community Impact Award on behalf of his organization. Foster called upon his senior leadership team to join him on stage, as they all played a critical role in the impact MTFA Architecture, Inc. has on the community. Recognizing the audience, Foster announced, "Here's to all of you who make Arlington great. We look to many years of impact for and from all of you."

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Executive Director of Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR), expressed her appreciation to the community as a whole for its support and service while accepting the Nonprofit Award on behalf of her organization. After sharing stories of impact from both OAR clients and the community, Jones Valderrama challenged attendees to use their leadership to better the community in ways similar to OAR's mission. "My challenge to you as leaders is to create a place where all enjoy equal civil and human rights."

The evening continued as the Leadership Arlington Signature Program Class of 2016 was welcomed to the organization's membership of more than 1,200 community leaders. "Our members are making a difference. Not just for Leadership Arlington. Not just for Leadership Center for Excellence. But for our community," shared Tim Hughes, Managing Shareholder at Bean, Kinney & Korman, PC, Chair of the Leadership Arlington Board of Regents and graduate of the Leadership Arlington Signature Program Class of 2006.

Speaking on behalf of the graduating Class of 2016 was Adryann Glenn. Glenn addressed the crowd, sharing leadership quotes that related back to his experiences through the Signature Program. On being part of this class of community leaders that he now describes as family, Glenn shared, "Leadership is an action, not a position. We all took action this year, and this is a pretty nice place to be." He told attendees stories of his time in the program and how he and his classmates have grown as leaders. "Being a leader is not about being upfront. A leader leads because he wants to see his people prosper," explained Glenn.



The evening ended with the Class of 2016 presenting a scholarship donation to the Leadership Arlington Signature Program scholarship fund. "We want to make sure everyone can afford the opportunity we had," class representative Kirsten Vaughan, Managing Director at Accenture, shared as she and classmates Dave Krause, Vice President, Application Development at Radian, and Duncan Lyons, Design Director at Gensler, presented a check for \$7,775 to Leadership Arlington and Leadership Center for Excellence. The scholarship donation will provide others the opportunity to experience the program.

For pictures from the event, please visit our [Facebook page](#). Thank you to the Nonprofit Award Sponsor, The Shooshan Company, Dinner Sponsor, Dominion, Change Agent Sponsors, Fulton Bank, United Bank and Washington Workplace, and all the generous table sponsors.

**About Leadership Arlington and Leadership Center for Excellence**

The mission of Leadership Arlington and Leadership Center for Excellence is to enlighten, inspire and connect leaders through community building and leadership development. For more information, visit [www.leadercenter.org](http://www.leadercenter.org) or call 703-528-2522.