

Journal Record honors Most Admired CEOs

By: Jessica Mitchell February 12, 2015



OKLAHOMA CITY – “Do not be afraid of failure, because it will happen.”

This advice comes from Stacey Ninness, who as a three-time honoree was inducted into the Chain of Distinction at Thursday night’s Oklahoma’s Most Admired CEOs event in downtown Oklahoma City.

“Commit to admitting your failures, learning from them and then moving on without letting them define you,” said Ninness, president and CEO of Neighborhood Services Organization.

Ninness was among 34 executives recognized at *The Journal Record’s* sixth-annual Oklahoma’s Most Admired CEOs event at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel. The honorees are profiled in the *Oklahoma’s Most Admired CEOs* magazine inserted in Friday’s issue of *The Journal Record*.

Sponsors of this year’s event include American Fidelity Assurance Co., Cox Business, Executive AirShare, Express Employment Professionals, GableGotwals and HoganTaylor.

“Oklahoma has numerous outstanding companies led by individuals who serve as visionary, mentor, leader and strategist,” said Melissa Bogle, manager of development for GableGotwals. “We at GableGotwals feel it is important to take the time each year to recognize successful executives who are leading companies which are a part of the fabric that will be Oklahoma’s future. Our state is fortunate to have great talent in not only our workforce, but also in our leaders.”

Following is a list of 2015 honorees by category.

Private company category

Dixie Agostino, Switchgear Search and Recruiting

Gary Allison, Tri-State Industrial Group

William (Bill) Bartmann, CFS2

Bruce Benbrook, The Stock Exchange Bank

Todd Brown, 180 Medical

Mark Burson, MassMutual Oklahoma

Brian Clemens, Community Hospital

Nathaniel Harding, Harding and Shelton Exploration

Ted Haynes, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma

Thomas Hill, Kimray Inc.

Ronnie Irani, RKI Exploration & Production LLC

Mark Kochner, Tedford Insurance

Philip Kurtz, CareATC

Todd Lisle, BKD LLP

Eddie Miller, Bios Corp.

Jacob Nossaman, Collision Works of Oklahoma LLC

Katherine Richard, Warwick Energy Group

Kelly Tran, Appable Inc./Vakargo

Zane Woods, ZZW Global Inc.

Public company category

Chad Richison, Paycom

Nonprofit category

Barbara Chishko, Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc.

Christy Elkins, Chickasha Economic Development Council

Ann Felton Gilliland, Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity

Tom Friedemann, Francis Tuttle Technology Center

Loren Gresham, Southern Nazarene University

Daryl Hill, Oklahoma Society of CPAs

Sandra Lewis, Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless

Stacey Ninness, Neighborhood Services Organization Inc.

Lisa Noon, Oklahoma Association of Realtors

Tom Riley, Ardmore Family YMCA

Ann Simank, OKC Metro Alliance

2015 Financial Stewardship honorees

In addition, three chief financial officers received Financial Stewardship Awards at the event: Tony Bostwick, with Express Employment Professionals; Bob Cole, from Kimray Inc.; and Ken Stephens, of Neighborhood Services Organization Inc.