



NEWS RELEASE

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VCIC Announces Recipients of 53rd Annual Tidewater Humanitarian Awards

*2017 Tidewater Humanitarian Awards Dinner is presented by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities
March 30, 2017 – The Westin Virginia Beach Town Center.*

(Norfolk, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 Humanitarian Awards. This 53rd presentation of the awards by the Tidewater Chapter of VCIC will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at the Westin Virginia Beach Town Center. The awards celebration honors individuals and organizations for making significant humanitarian contributions to the South Hampton Roads community.

The 2017 Tidewater Humanitarian Awards Recipients

Kenneth C. Alexander – Kenny Alexander was elected Mayor of the City of Norfolk on May 3, 2016. A native of Norfolk and president of Metropolitan Funeral Service, he began his career in public service more than two decades ago. Mayor Alexander served in the Senate of Virginia from 2012 – 2016, and in the House of Delegates from 2002 to 2012. He is currently serves on the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance, and the Greater Norfolk Corporation. Mayor Alexander is also a member of the Norfolk Chapter of the FBI Citizens' Academy Alumni Association, and an alumnus of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. He began his community service as president of Berkley's Beacon Light Civic League and Beacon Light Community Development Corporation.

Kim S. Fink –

Kim Fink has been an influential community activist and leader in Hampton Roads for over 25 years. Her background is in broadcasting and she has worked as a radio / TV producer and writer at WHRO and on numerous freelance projects including The March of Dimes, Learning Bridge, and The Strelitz Diabetes Center. In addition to her professional work, Kim has experience on the ODU Advisory Board for the Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding and is an Honorary Board member and past President of both the Ohel Sholom Temple and the Holocaust Commission of Hampton Roads. She also has experience as an executive board member of the United Jewish Federation Women's Campaign and a Director of the Tidewater Performing Arts Society, and she has worked with Spectrum Puppets presenting Child Abuse Prevention programming.

Caroline W. McCartney – For over 37 years, Caroline McCartney has been a top selling Realtor® in the South Hampton Roads real estate market. She is the President of Caroline McCartney, Inc. affiliated with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Towne Realty. Among her professional and volunteer activities, Caroline has been a leading advocate for children's charities both in the Hampton Roads area and nationally, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Southeastern Virginia Chapter, Horizons Hampton Roads, Inc., For Kids, Inc., Operation Winter Coat, and Peter G. Decker, Jr. Children's Charities. She serves on the Board of TowneBank, YWCA, and The New E3 School. Caroline has been a trustee for the Old Dominion University Education Foundation since 2013 and is an Executive Member of the Women's Initiative Network.

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James K. Spore – Jim Spore is the first president and chief executive officer of Reinvent Hampton Roads, following 24 years of service as city manager of the City of Virginia Beach. During his tenure as city manager, Virginia Beach won accolades as a best place to live in America, one of the top five best managed cities in the nation, and the U.S. Senate Medallion of Excellence for Productivity and Quality. Jim has served on numerous regional boards and has been an active member of the American Planning Association, the American Society for Public Administration, the Alliance for Innovation and the International City Management Association (ICMA). In 2010, he received the award for Career Excellence in honor of Mark E. Keane from ICMA. Jim continues to inspire regional cooperation as he leads Reinvent Hampton Roads, an outgrowth of a community leadership initiative of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

Craig S. Wansink – At Virginia Wesleyan College, Dr. Craig Wansink is Professor of Religious Studies, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, and Joan P. and Macon F. Brock, Jr., Chair of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom (CSRF). Since 2010, he also has served as Senior Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church, Norfolk. The congregation works with youth through the Park Place Child Life Center, the Global Student Friendship at ODU, and Youth Outreach Urban Resources and Services (YOURS). Craig has been a regular speaker around the community on the challenges and hopes of interfaith dialogue, on profiling and stereotyping, on biblical studies, on homosexuality and faith, and on Islam in the interfaith world. As Director of the CSRF, he works to create dialogue and conversation on challenging issues in the community, in addition to giving voice to—and encouraging dialogue with—marginalized positions and minorities.

The 2016 Tidewater Distinguished Merit Award Recipient

Hands United Building Bridges (HUBB) – The purpose of HUBB is to connect religious leaders in Hampton Roads for the common purpose of strengthening our diverse community, searching for a common ground through building bridges that connect humanity. HUBB has involved nearly 60 faith leaders from around the area in dialogues, as well as some leaders of faith-based organizations and members of law enforcement. They meet every four to six weeks and have discussed topics ranging from education to community policing and from understanding Islam to approaches to poverty. Together, HUBB has realized that dialogue is a form of action and that building bridges between communities can transform the greater community. This organization is led by Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz and Dr. Antipas Harris.

The Humanitarian Awards are presented annually in communities across the state by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Begun in Tidewater in 1965, when the organization was part of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Humanitarian Awards honor individuals and organizations who have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. The 2017 VCIC Tidewater Humanitarian Awards dinner is being chaired by Charles V. McPhillips, partner with Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

For 82 years, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has been addressing prejudices, in all forms in order to improve academic achievement, increase workplace productivity, and enhance local trust. Today through workshops, retreats, and customized programs, VCIC works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion.

For more information about the organization or about reservations for the Awards on March 30th, go to www.inclusiveVA.org.

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