

Sun Life earns Businessperson of Year award

CASA GRANDE – Sun Life Family Health Center will be honored this year with the prestigious *Businessperson of the Year* award for its partnership with Pinal County Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology (CAVIT) students.

The award is given out each year by the Association for Career and Technical Education of Arizona (ACTEAZ). Although Sun Life Director of Community Outreach Renee Louzon-Benn was named as recipient of the award, she said that will be accepting the award on behalf of the many Sun Life staff members who work with students in one way or another, at ACTEAZ's 39th annual conference in Tucson this coming July.

"There is no one person at Sun Life getting this award," Louzon-Benn clarified. "There are many, many hands here that help facilitate our partnership with CAVIT. There were just so many names, and they could only pick one to accept the award. I will be accepting the award collectively

for the others who contribute."

Other staff members heavily involved in mentoring, internships and job shadow programs with students are Liza Peña (front office manager, Casa Grande), Mitsy Yon (medical assistant, Coolidge), Brandie Wingate (medical assistant, Coolidge), Samantha Reinhard (community relations coordinator, Casa Grande), Anita Fijalka (QI coordinator, Casa Grande), and Glenna Lawrimore (site manager Coolidge, Eloy).

The winning nomination came from Mike Glover, superintendent of CAVIT.

"The application and nomination statement clearly spoke of your accomplishments and dedication to students and to career and technical education in the state of Arizona," explained ACTEAZ Vice-President/Awards Chairperson Lisa Doll in a letter to Sun Life this month, announcing the award.

Glover explained how Louzon-Benn and Sun Life helped to develop a 40-hour internship program for CAVIT

students for hands-on experience in a medical setting, and has even hired on several CAVIT medical program graduates. Since 2009, Sun Life staff members have regularly served on CAVIT's medical assistant program advisory committee, where they give CAVIT recommendations on program curriculum and goals. Staff also serve as advisors to CAVIT's "A+ Program of Excellence" wellness clinic and provide input on the program's services to community members.

He added that Sun Life is quick to donate time, materials and staff for clinics, health fairs, classroom education, and other related CAVIT programs.

"Sun Life makes curriculum recommendations, provides non-traditional personnel as class speakers, evaluates students' attainment of medical assistant and clinic technical skills, and evaluates leadership skills such as career display presentations, and mock job interviews," added Glover.

Other community award winners are:

Policy Maker of the Year

Tim Carter

Yavapai County School Superintendent

Excellence in Leadership Recognition

Dr. Carolyn Warner

Corporate Education Consulting, Inc.
CTE Winners:

CTE Teacher of the Year

Reta Yanik

Mesa Public Schools

New CTE Teacher of the Year

Ben Barth

Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology

Outstanding CTE Teacher in Community Service

Jeff Wooley

Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology

Post-Secondary CTE Educator of the Year

Randy Kimmens

Maricopa County Community College District

Junior High CTE Teacher of the Year

Dennis Esparza

Mesa Public Schools

CTE Administrator of the Year

Cathie Raymond

Marana Unified School District

CTE Administrative Assistant of the Year

Tammy Bonner

Pima JTED

Counselor of the Year

Susan Pollack

St. David Unified School District

Outstanding CTE Program Benson Culinary Arts Program

Mia Cashman

Bernard Stewart Distinguished Service

Dr. Ray Polvani

Retired JTED Superintendent

Executive Citation Award

Doris Wojtulewicz

ACTEAZ

Visible Difference

Rick Peters

Yavapai Community College

Meritorious Service

Phil Howardell

Paradise Valley Unified School District