Anti-Defamation League to Honor ASU President Michael Crow

Crow to receive Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Award

Carlos Galindo-Elvira, Vice President of Philanthropic and Community Relations, Valle del Sol, to Receive “Al” Brooks Community Leadership Award

Phoenix, Ariz. — The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) will honor ASU President Michael Crow with the Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Award, on Thursday, Oct. 23 at its annual Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Awards Dinner. The award, ADL’s highest honor, was established to recognize individuals who have exhibited extraordinary humanitarianism, and whose everyday actions exemplify the principles on which the Anti-Defamation League was founded.

“For more than 30 years the ADL has recognized Arizonans who boldly dedicate themselves to enhancing our community and promoting diversity,” said Bill Straus, ADL’s Regional Director. “We are proud to be giving the 2008 Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Award to Michael Crow, who has transformed Arizona State University to reach impressive new levels of inclusion, diversity and community involvement.”

Under Crow’s leadership, ASU has been newly recognized among the top universities in the nation and world, while diligently focusing on inclusion and access. “We are seeking greater diversity in our student body, a diversity that brings with it the potential for excellence and perspective,” said Crow. Under his leadership, the university created Access ASU, a set of university programs dedicated to creating systemic change to increase the college-going opportunity for students from all Arizona families. Minority undergraduate enrollment increased from approximately 9,000 students in 1997 to more than 15,000 in 2007.

Carlos Galindo-Elvira, Vice President of Philanthropic and Community Relations at Valle del Sol, will receive the “Al” Brooks Community Leadership Award the same evening. This award commemorates the life and accomplishments of Sumner “Al” Brooks, the first Jewish Mayor of Mesa. It was established to pay tribute to people who, in the course of their daily lives, give back more than can be measured.

Galindo-Elvira oversees philanthropic, community relations activities, leadership development programs and the APS Center for Culture and Understanding at Valle del Sol. ADL is honoring Galindo-Elvira for his on-going work to connect cultures and communities. “Carlos recognizes how critically important it is to work outside the vacuum of one’s own ethnic, religious and cultural community,” said Straus. “He does critical work on behalf of and outside of the Latino community, and he has a rich perspective on what’s possible in our community.”

The Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Awards dinner is Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008. A General reception begins at 6:15 p.m. and the dinner and program begin at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held at a Phoenix-area resort, but the location is only released to ticket-holders due to security concerns. (The ADL is regularly targeted because of its on-going efforts to expose extremists, terrorists and hate groups.)

All proceeds from the Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Awards dinner benefit the ADL’s Community Partnership to Fight Hate, which is an on-going battle to keep our community and state free from hate, bias, prejudice and discrimination.

This year’s Dinner Chairs are Jenny Norton and Bob Ramsey, CEO of StarWest and president of PMT Ambulance. Sue Clark-Johnson, retired president of Gannett Newspaper Division, is Chair of the Tribute Journal honoring Michael Crow. Steve Hammel is Chairman of the ADL Arizona Regional Board.