PAG presents Swanson regional leadership award

Pima Association of Governments announces that the 2011 Thomas L. Swanson Regional Leadership Award recipient is Sarah Smallhouse, president of the Thomas R. Brown Foundations in Tucson. The award was presented today during the PAG Regional Council meeting.

“Sarah has worked tirelessly in creating and supporting the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center,” said her nominator Francie McLane Merryman, Vice President, Wealth Strategies, Northern Trust, NA. “The SABCC has been successful in coordinating multijurisdictional efforts to eradicate buffelgrass from the Sonoran Desert.”

Smallhouse also is engaged with other local organizations. She is chair of the University of Arizona Foundation Board of Trustees. She also has served on the TREO Board, where she focused on local governance, transportation and environmental issues. In 2009, Smallhouse received the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce’s Woman of the Year award.

The Brown Foundations are focused on education and community capacity-building and select initiatives in science and health. The Brown Foundations also offer compressed economics workshops for K-12 teachers and organize symposiums and forums to bring expert economic analysis to public policy issues in Arizona.

The Swanson award is given in honor of PAG’s former executive director, the late Thomas L. Swanson, to acknowledge an individual or organization affecting positive change in the Tucson metropolitan region.

Criteria for the Swanson award include:

- Enhancing the regional community despite often restrictive jurisdictional boundaries.
- Promoting cooperation among citizens and local elected officials.
- Providing leadership for regional growth via strong local government representation.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, energy, air quality and water quality. PAG’s staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.PAGregion.com for more information or www.facebook.com/PAGregion

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