

NEWS RELEASE  
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### **Local residents Receive high honors for commitment to community**

WINSTON-SALEM, NC - The Winston-Salem Foundation announced the 2009 Winston-Salem Foundation Award and the ECHO Awards at its annual community luncheon on May 6 at the Benton Convention Center. **The Winston-Salem Foundation Award**, the Foundation's highest honor, was awarded to **Edwin L. Welch, Jr.**



(l-r) Harold Martin, Foundation Committee chair; Ed Welch;  
Scott Wierman, Foundation president

Established in 1996, the award is given to individuals who demonstrate the Foundation's values of generosity, excellence, inclusion, and integrity along with visionary leadership in a community activity or on behalf of a community organization, particularly in the recent past. Past recipients have led nonprofits, provided community leadership, and created opportunities for the broader community. The recipient was selected by a committee comprised of members from various Foundation committees and the community at large.

In 2008, Mr. Welch chaired both the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors as well as that of the United Way. Under his leadership at the Chamber, Mr. Welch

brought together key individuals to establish the Community Education Collaborative, which is now establishing a community plan to set funding priorities for the programs showing the best results. His extensive involvement with Forsyth Tech includes serving on the Foundation's Board of Directors as well as co-chairing their highly successful *Momentum* capital campaign, a first for the community college. Mr. Welch also has extensive individual and board involvement with Hospice, Senior Services, The Children's Home, and Arbor Acres Methodist Retirement Community. He is president of Winston-Salem-based IL Long Construction Company, and encourages his employees to give back through a close partnership with North Hills Elementary School.

With this recognition comes a \$10,000 grant from which Mr. Welch has designated \$5,000 each to educational initiatives of the **Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce Foundation** and the **Foundation of Forsyth Tech**. He was nominated by Gayle Anderson and Gary Green.

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The Foundation and ECHO Council jointly presented the **2009 ECHO Awards** to four individuals and one group who are creatively building social capital. Each winner is uniquely connecting people and building trust among people in order to make our community stronger. Each ECHO Award recipient will receive \$1,000 to grant to a nonprofit organization of their choice.



(l-r) Harold Martin; Mitchell Britt; Robert Leak III; Sylvia Oberle of Reynolda Rotary Club and Ted Burcaw of Cook Elementary School; Delores Huntley; Dr. Lee Beall; and Scott Wierman

The ECHO Award winners are as follows:

**Dr. Lee Beall** has bridged social capital by enriching the lives of both physically disabled and non-disabled children, their families, and their teachers. Twenty years ago Dr. Beall, a retired Professor of Music at Winston-Salem State University, started an ongoing musical exchange between developmentally disabled children at Carter Vocational High School and typically developing children at Summit School. This innovative program has resulted in relationship-building, trust and understanding, self-confidence and fulfillment, and enlightened minds, creating new friendships between the two groups of students. Dr. Beall continues to build relationships by teaching chorus at Carter Vocational, as well as wheelchair dancing at The Children's Center for the Physically Disabled. Dr. Beall ("Bell") was nominated by Ann Guill.

**Mitchell Britt** has bridged social capital in our community through his innovative Supplement slow-food dinners that bring together young and old; black, white and Hispanic; those who are economically comfortable and those who are struggling; to share locally grown meals. These monthly dinners are held in various backyards and living rooms across Winston-Salem. Individuals come to the dinner as strangers and leave as friends, building our community little-by-little. Mitchell has also worked to educate the community on building a more sustainable environment and economy through initiatives such as his Compost Exchange and Community Garden. Mitchell was nominated by Jonathan Milner.

**Deloris Huntley** has built social capital through the Alpha and Omega Family Institute. Deloris established the Family Institute, located on Gray Avenue, to provide a place where individuals could access programs and services in their own neighborhood. Programming includes afterschool tutoring help for children, healthy cooking classes, prenatal classes, a HIV/AIDS and Young Women's Health and Wellness conference, and a Children's Health Fair. Area residents, many facing huge challenges, are able to gather new information, learn new skills and ultimately learn to trust and contribute back to the community. Deloris was nominated by Tracey Maxwell.

**Robert Leak III** has built social capital through his leadership in the Easton neighborhood that he calls home. As president of the Easton Youth Neighborhood Association, Robert has worked to build community - by organizing a neighborhood canned food drive, a coat drive for the homeless, and a community cleanup, while also providing tutoring support for Easton Elementary School students. His intentional efforts to reach out to his diverse community include printing flyers in Spanish as well as English so that the Latino population is included in neighborhood activities. At only 20 years-old, Robert is an inspiring role model for youth in the community. Robert was nominated by Ashley Huling.



*To invest in our community by making philanthropy and its benefits available to all.*

**The Reynolda Rotary Club of Winston-Salem** has bridged social capital through its innovative partnership with Cook Elementary School since 2003. The Club's initial involvement entailed financial donations for playground and other outdoor equipment, as well as mentoring and tutoring time commitments. Over time, bonding relationships have developed between the diverse groups of Rotary members, students, teachers and school administration, resulting in improved student self-confidence, test score gains, trust building and stereotype elimination. Additional traditions have also been established, including a book fair, an annual Holiday Party and a scholarship fund at Winston-Salem State University. The Reynolda Rotary Club was nominated by Barbara Cassidy.