

Acceptance of Outstanding Foundation Award

AFP National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony

Ritz-Carlton, Orlando

November 5, 2009

By Jerry Hilbrich, Board Chair
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, both past and present, I want to say thank you for honoring the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation with AFP's Outstanding Foundation Award for 2009. Will all of the Foundation's Board members and staff members, both past and present, please rise to be recognized and share in this award. (Waive or single out Joan Ruffier sitting with the YMCA)

This honor is distinguished because it recognizes a body of work that has leverage and impact beyond the grant dollars involved – or as we like to say at the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, it represents “philanthropy beyond checkwritting!”

As most of you know, the Foundation has been a champion for better management, governance, and leadership of nonprofit organizations for its entire 36 year history. Today's award recognizes the Foundation's effort in creating the Rollins College Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership Center and our commitment to having our nonprofit sector be better managed, governed, and lead.

I want to thank all of the grantmaking foundations, many of whom are in this room, for their direct financial support of the PNLN, and for their indirect support of the Center by funding coursework and curriculum for their favorite nonprofits to attend the PNLN. Let me also thank the Board chairs and CEO's of nonprofits for committing the resources necessary to attend the programs of the PNLN. Thank you as well, to Rollins College for their outstanding contribution of in-kind resources to the Center totaling over \$250,000 per year. Last year when the Rollins College Roy E. Crummer Graduate School of Business – the #1 Business School in Florida... and 22nd in the nation for Entrepreneurship Programs... and 59th in the WORLD for their Executive MBA program - was up for reaccreditation, the American Association to Advance Collegiate School of Business singled out the Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership Center as an exemplary program worthy of replication by other business schools who seek the prestigious AACSB accreditation. Imitation is the greatest form of flattery!

This award is especially pleasing to the Foundation because it is given by the Central Florida Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the largest international professional association devoted to advancing the profession and more importantly the ethics of the profession of fundraising. Ethics, transparency, and trust are the currency of the nonprofit and philanthropic sector --- without it we fail to live up to our very best.

Again, thank you to AFP, to Rollins College, to our fellow foundations, nonprofit organizations and to everyone who cares about the success of our nonprofit organizations that help create the quality of life that we enjoy in our community.