



For Immediate Release

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Hays Awarded Leadership Wilmington Alumnus of the Year Herring Named Most Outstanding 2016 Class Member

Wilmington, N.C. — The 9th Annual Karl Davis Leadership Wilmington Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to 2010 graduate Deb Hays during the Leadership Wilmington Alumni Association reception held at the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce on August 4th. The award was named in memory of Leadership Wilmington graduate and WECT General Manager Karl Davis, who died in 2008, and was a proactive force in the community.

Hays, a broker at Intracoastal Realty, was honored for her extensive volunteer work and for giving back to the community. Her long list of community involvement includes serving on the Steering Committee for the City of Wilmington Comprehensive Plan and being chair of the Wilmington Planning Commission. Hays recently served as chair of the Wilmington Housing Authority, was recently appointed to the Airlie Gardens Foundation Board, and is a long-term committee chair for the NC Azalea Festival. She has had involvement in various community organizations, including the Carousel Center, Phoenix Ministries, Teacher's Fund, Back to School for Kids, American Heart Association, YWCA, Cape Fear Community College, and Carolina Canines.

As a professional member of the real estate community, Hays has served the region in many capacities. She has been president of the Wilmington Regional Association of Realtors, on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Association of Realtors, and on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Realtors.

The Most Outstanding Leadership Wilmington 2016 Class Member Award was presented to Nichole Herring (The Home Depot). The award was determined based on voting by the LW Class of 2016 to express their appreciation for the class member who went above and beyond in making contributions to the class, who was open to new ideas, and displayed outstanding leadership skills.

Herring has taken on the role of a community captain at the Home Depot store where she works and has earned the "National Philanthropic Award" on behalf of her hard work and dedication. She has also received a "Living the Values Award" through Home Depot for her actions taken

when an associate was in need. Herring was a key member of the 2016 Logistics Committee for the Leadership Wilmington class project—Work On Wilmington.

Leadership Wilmington is a program of the Greater Wilmington Chamber Foundation that brings leaders from across the community together to educate, challenge and motivate participants to use their leadership skills for the betterment of the community. Leadership Wilmington organizes and implements the area's largest community service day, Work on Wilmington (WOW), each year as its class project.

For more information, contact Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Communications Director Scott Czechlewski at 762-2611 ext. 216 or czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org.