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## **LEADERSHIP FORT WORTH AND LONG-TIME BOARD MEMBER DRENDA WILLIAMS WITT HONORED AT REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**FORT WORTH, Texas** (Nov. 25, 2014) – [Leadership Fort Worth](#) (LFW) and its board member Drenda Williams Witt were recently honored with prestigious awards at the [Association of Leadership Programs'](#) (ALP) Central Plains Regional Conference in Oklahoma City.

LFW received the **Excellence in Innovation Award**, an honor that recognizes outstanding innovation that is creative, unique and impactful, for its development of Issues Initiatives as a new component of its long-established Leadership Class program. Launched in 2012, LFW's Issues Initiatives allow participants to experience an example of positive collaboration, learn process tools to create successful collaborations, move the needle on significant issues affecting the community and create sustainable community solutions.

Issues addressed by the 2013-14 Leadership Class included hunger and nutrition, water conservation, and education and workplace challenges. In many cases, the Issues Initiative teams continue working on their issue well beyond the term of their Leadership Class year.

Witt was recognized with ALP's **Distinguished Leadership Award**, an honor presented to individuals who are exceptional community leadership program graduates and who have made significant and notable contributions for the betterment of their communities. Witt joins other prominent LFW alumni who have previously received this honor, such as Julie Wilson, Erma Johnson Hadley and former Fort Worth Mayor Kenneth Barr.

Witt has served as an LFW board member for 18 years, frequently taking a leadership role on critical planning, policy and fundraising tasks for the organization. For the past four years, she has served as chair of LFW's Programs and Policies Committee, and she previously served on the organization's Marketing/Communications Committee. Witt co-chaired LFW's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2012-13 and has also served on several of LFW's annual Fellows Event committees.

In addition to her distinguished service to LFW, Witt has also contributed significantly to numerous other Fort Worth-area community organizations. She has served as a board member

and board president with the YWCA of Fort Worth & Tarrant County, as a board member with The Women's Shelter, as board member and secretary for the Arts Council Northeast, and as a member and secretary of the Bedford Parks and Recreation Board. Witt has been very involved with Camp Fire First Texas, serving as a board member, chair of the Public Relations and Marketing Committee, chair of the Governance and Leadership Committee, and currently as chair of the organization's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary "An Artists' Christmas" Fundraising Committee. Witt spent her professional career in various healthcare-related communications roles.

### **About Leadership Fort Worth**

The mission of Leadership Fort Worth (LFW) is to empower and connect diverse leaders who serve as catalysts for a vibrant Fort Worth community. Founded in 1972, LFW is based on the concept of community trusteeship. This concept challenges leaders to function as trustees, committing themselves to making their communities better places to live. LFW's program offerings are four-fold, including two adult leadership development programs (Leadership Class and Leading Edge), a program for 8th graders (LeaderKids) and continuing education for the full membership. For more information, visit [www.leadershipfortworth.org](http://www.leadershipfortworth.org).

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