

# Awards Luncheon a Sterling Affair



Denise & Chuck Haney, Newport Furnishings; Susan Ratliff, Exhibit Experts; Susan Anable, Cox Communications; Sammy Glassman, Scottsdale Leadership, Inc.

All that glitters is not gold. It could be Sterling! That certainly was the case in November when four outstanding Chamber members and their companies took center stage at the 18th Annual Sterling Awards luncheon before a record crowd of 500. Selected from among twelve finalists, this year's winners embody excellence, innovation and community stewardship – the hallmarks of the Scottsdale business community.

The honorees include: Exhibit Experts, Inc., Micro Business; Newport Furnishings, Small Business; Cox Communications, Big Business; and Scottsdale Leadership, Inc., Non-Profit.

According to Virginia Korte, Chamber President & CEO, the Sterling Awards process of application and selection is one of the most rigorous among the Valley's business awards competitions.

"Four teams of 6 judges are responsible for reviewing applications, conducting one-on-one interviews with the finalists and making the hard decision of who will ultimately be recognized as winners. It's a tough process. Then when the final selections are made, we keep the results secret until the day of the event. It makes for a very exciting awards presentation!" said Korte.

This year's competition featured a new category – Micro Business. Cindy Anderson, President Anderson Business Development

and 2003 Sterling Awards Chair, believes this addition provides important recognition and opportunity for entrepreneurs.

"The challenges of micro businesses are unique. We have to be very creative in how we deliver services and solutions to our clients. Collaborations and alliance partners are critical. It also takes a great deal of determination and perseverance. This award category gives us a place to compete." Anderson said.

All of our 2003 Sterling Awards honorees have achieved success through a lot of hard work and sweat equity.

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## Sterling Awards Honorees

### MICRO BUSINESS – EXHIBIT EXPERTS FINALISTS

Advanced Strategy Center at Pinnacle Peak  
Celebration of Fine Art

### SMALL BUSINESS – NEWPORT FURNISHINGS FINALISTS

Allegra Print & Imaging • Applied Creative

### BIG BUSINESS – COX COMMUNICATIONS FINALISTS

First National Bank of Arizona • Wireless Retail

### NON-PROFIT – SCOTTSDALE LEADERSHIP FINALISTS

Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship  
McDowell Sonoran Land Trust

*To read more on the winners, please see page 4.*