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GENE C. BLUE AWARDED ASPA’S SOCIAL EQUITY AWARD

Washington, DC - The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) is proud to announce that Gene C. Blue, a dedicated advocate and champion of equity and social justice in Arizona, is the recipient of the 2014 Gloria Hobson Nordin Social Equity Award. Blue will accept the award on March 16 at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC as part of ASPA’s 75th Annual National Conference.

Established by the ASPA Endowment, the Gloria Hobson Nordin Social Equity Award recognizes an individual for distinguished contributions toward achieving fairness, justice and equity in his or her community. It is named after longtime ASPA member and former EEO investigator Gloria Hobson Nordin.

“Gene demonstrates the key qualities for which the Social Equity Award was created,” said Award Selection Chairman Heather Wyatt-Nichol. “His dedication to promoting social justice and educating others on the importance of equity is incomparable. ASPA is committed to social justice and welcome opportunities to highlight and recognize public servants who are contributing to these efforts where they live and work.”

Blue is president and CEO of the Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC). The Center is part of a national program that offers training and employment opportunities for disadvantaged Americans. Blue joined OIC as director of training in 1970. He has steadily risen through the ranks of the organization, serving as deputy director prior to his appointment as president and CEO.

Blue is very active in the Phoenix community, holding leadership positions on several boards. For the past 20 years, he has served as chair of the local Martin Luther King Arizona Celebration Committee; he has coordinated annual celebrations marking the civil rights icon’s birthday. He also served on the Downtown Phoenix Partnership Policy Board, Citizen’s Transit Committee and is a past member and chairman of the City of Phoenix Planning Commission.

Blue has been recognized with a Governor Citation of Merit, the Arizona House of Representatives Appreciation Award and the City of Phoenix Golden Heart Award.

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The American Society for Public Administration is the largest and most prominent professional association for public administration. It is dedicated to advancing the art, science, teaching and practice of public and non-profit administration.