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RECA Honors Three Outstanding Leaders With Awards
Awards to be Presented at RECA's Annual Awards Luncheon Dec. 15

(AUSTIN – November 19, 2015) – The Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA) today announced the winners of three prestigious awards: the Gary S. Farmer Commendation of Excellence, the Community Service Award and the Rising Star Award.

RECA's Gary S. Farmer Commendation of Excellence recognizes someone who has made a valuable contribution to the well-being of RECA and the Austin community. Ray Wilkerson, Chairman of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) and president and CEO of Ray Wilkerson Companies, Inc. has been named the recipient of the Gary S. Farmer Commendation of Excellence.

"Ray has had an incredible impact on the community. Not only has he developed a successful business, but he has also had a dramatic impact on the region's infrastructure as Chairman of the CTRMA Board of Directors and, prior to that, as Chairman of the LCRA Board of Directors," said RECA Board Chair Michael Cooper. "As the co-founder of HeartGift, Ray has also helped make lifesaving surgery available to more than 250 children from over 30 countries around the world. Few people have given as much to this community as Ray has."

RECA's Community Service Award recognizes an individual whose community service merits recognition. This year, RECA will present the Community Service Award to Hays County Commissioner and Chair of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), Will Conley.

"Will has demonstrated incredible leadership as the Chair of CAMPO and as a Hays County Commissioner," Cooper said. "The region is finally seeing major transportation projects that are addressing our serious congestion problem, and much of that has to do with his foresight, determination and a commitment to the region. He was also on the frontline for Hays County in dealing with the tragic Memorial Day flooding in and around Wimberley, and he helped lead a response and recovery effort that prevented that tragedy from having an even more dire impact."

RECA's Rising Star Award recognizes an "under 40" RECA member who has shown dedication to both the organization and the community. RECA has named Lara Burns, a RECA Board Member and COO of Urbanspace, as the recipient of the Rising Star Award.

"Lara's willingness as a busy young professional to regularly step up and contribute her time and talents to the association is admirable," Cooper said. "She has served as co-chair of KnockOut Night, RECA's annual black tie fundraiser and she was a member of RECA's LDC Class before going on to serve on its Oversight Committee. Lara is a great leader and role model for other young professionals in our industry."

These awards will be presented to the winners at [RECA's Annual Awards Luncheon](#) on Tuesday, December 15 at the Four Seasons Hotel. If you are a member of the media and are interested in attending, please contact Ryan Poulos at ryan.poulos@reca.org.

About RECA:

The Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA) addresses issues affecting the commercial real estate community in Central Texas. With more than 1,700 members, the non-profit, advocacy organization represents a broad spectrum of the Central Texas economy, ranging from landowners and developers to the various service professions that facilitate the industry. Commercial real estate development brings new jobs to Central Texas while protecting existing jobs and increasing tax revenue, which is used to fund our public schools, city services, infrastructure and parks.

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