



Touching Lives With Hope.

Contact:

Beckie White, Marketing and Communications Manager  
KidWorks Community Development Corporation  
(714) 834-9400 X125, Beckie.White@kidworksoc.org

**For Immediate Release**

Nov. 7, 2017

**KidWorks Foundation for Success Luncheon Raises More Than \$768,000  
*2017 Dan Donahue Leadership Award went to David A. Pyle***

Santa Ana, Calif. – The 2017 KidWorks' Foundation for Success (FFS) Luncheon, held Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017 at the Doubletree Hotel, Santa Ana, again set a record by raising more than \$768,000 to help fund afterschool education and leadership development programs conducted by the nonprofit headquartered in central Santa Ana.

This is the largest sum raised since the inception of the luncheon in 2007 and represents the majority of the after school program budget funding academic enrichment, tutoring, leadership development, and college readiness programs at the expanded KidWorks Dan Donahue Center.

The prestigious 2017 Dan Donahue Leadership Award was presented to David A. Pyle, Philanthropist, Founder/Chief Executive Officer of American Career College and Shareholder of West Coast University. "This very special award recognizes Mr. Pyle's fervent support for KidWorks' youth and families," said David Benavides, KidWorks' Executive Director. "For decades, Mr. Pyle has been a leader and innovator in the private, postsecondary education community, and he is as passionate about the community as he is about supporting health care and educational programs that aid underserved children and families."

"I have been a supporter of KidWorks because these young men and woman are being developed as our future leaders and will be making a difference in our communities," said Pyle. "Seeing firsthand the interaction of the kids, family members, staff and volunteers as they grow is inspiring and something I am proud to be a part of."

The event's keynote speaker Chad Williams, author of the bestselling book, "SEAL of God," talked about his coming to terms with the direction of his life and his subsequent journey through the grueling Naval Ops training. He was one of only 13 to make it to graduation day and has served his country on multiple deployments to defend freedom. Also recognized at the event was Alfredo Padilla, one of KidWorks many amazing student success stories. He is a recent California State University, Northridge graduate, where he earned his degree in kinesiology.

The Foundation for Success luncheon would not be possible without the generosity of our presenting sponsors: American Career College, West Coast University, Heidi & Ruben Mendoza and Toyota Financial Services. Other key sponsors include Bank of America, Steven L. Craig of Craig Realty Group and Donahue Schriber Realty Group.

Since its inception in 2007, KidWorks' annual Foundation for Success event has raised nearly \$5.8 million to fund programs at the KidWorks Dan Donahue Center. The Orange County Business Journal has consistently named the KidWorks' Foundation for Success event in the "Top Five Charity Luncheons in Orange County."

###

### **About KidWorks**

Since 1993, KidWorks has helped at-risk children, youth and families in Santa Ana, California thrive in body, mind and spirit. As a 501(C)(3) nonprofit, KidWorks offers educational support, leadership and character-building programs, and health and fitness activities that begin with preschoolers and follow youth into their college years. KidWorks' main building, the Dan Donahue Center, serves the highest number of children and offers a state-licensed preschool. In total, KidWorks operates four centers that have become safe havens in gang-heavy, high-crime and overcrowded residential areas in central Santa Ana. KidWorks serves 1,000 children, youth and parents weekly and reaches over 4,000 community members annually. To learn more about KidWorks and to read its success stories, please visit [www.kidworksoc.org](http://www.kidworksoc.org).