



## NEWS

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### **VALLEY FORWARD PRESENTS TOP ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD TO U.S. 60 GONZALES PASS**

PHOENIX (Sept. 18, 2011) The U.S. 60 Gonzales Pass widening project has earned the coveted *President's Award* (Best of Show) in Valley Forward's 31<sup>st</sup> annual Environmental Excellence Awards program, held in partnership with SRP for the tenth consecutive year. Designated the Pinal-Gila Scenic Road, the 10-mile scenic stretch of highway is the Valley's eastern gateway to the Superstition Wilderness and the Tonto National Forest, which plays host to 5.8 million visitors each year.

While freeways are inherently considered detrimental to environmental quality, this significant project was recognized for exemplifying sensitivity and responsiveness to site conditions, balancing human-made elements with the natural desert landscape to conserve and protect precious resources. The project team made environmental sensitivity a key priority in efforts to improve safety and capacity of the narrow, two-lane roadway by widening it to a four-lane facility.

More than 130 entries were received in Arizona's oldest and most prestigious awards competition focusing exclusively on environmental initiatives. Winners were announced Sept. 17, at Valley Forward's awards gala attended by more than 600 community leaders at The Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale.

Valley Forward and SRP presented 19 first-place Crescordia winners and 30 Awards of Merit. The awards set standards for achieving a balance between the built and natural environment in the region's physical, technical, social and aesthetic development.

In presenting the top award, Valley Forward recognized three civil engineering companies and two landscape architectural firms that teamed with the USDA Forest Service and Arizona Department of Transportation. The project was lauded for reducing environmental impacts, conserving and protecting natural resources and integrating engineering and aesthetic considerations into each phase of the development process.

In addition to the President's Award, the U.S. Gonzales Pass won a first-place Crescordia Award in the *Site Development and Landscape (Public Sector)* category. Crescordia is a Greek term meaning, "to grow in harmony," and the President's Award is selected from among all Crescordia recipients.

This year Valley Forward unveiled a newly designed Crescordia award created by Vernon Swaback and Nicholas Markwardt of Two Worlds Community Foundation. The prestigious award's glass, copper and wood design exemplifies a balance between the natural and built environment, incorporating natural materials and local resources.

"The breadth and depth of entries in this year's program spotlights the high priority sustainability has in our growing metropollex," said Diane Brossart, president of Valley Forward. "These awards have become powerful vehicles in advocating for the preservation of natural resources – air, water, open space and our unique desert environment."

Two projects received two Crescordia awards each this year – Soleri Bridge and Plaza in Scottsdale and the Intel Ocotillo Campus. The Soleri Bridge and Plaza by renowned artist and architect Paolo Soleri was awarded first-place honors in the *Site Development and Landscape (Trails)* and *Art in Public Places* categories. A pedestrian passage, solar calendar and gathering space along the Scottsdale Waterfront, the striking bridge provides a scenic viewpoint over the 60-foot-wide water conveyance channel and includes a 22,000-square-foot plaza, providing a pleasing natural environment within the high-energy atmosphere of downtown Scottsdale.

Intel Corporation's Ocotillo Semiconductor Manufacturing Campus in Chandler received the Crescordia for *Buildings and Structures (Industrial & Public Works)* along with the *Environmental Stewardship – SRP Award*. The four-million-square-foot campus is the first of its kind in the world to receive Silver Certification under the LEED Existing Building: Operations & Maintenance green building rating system. The impressive facility minimizes energy and water use, conserving natural resources and reducing its environmental impact.

"It's inspiring to see the corporate sector leading the way in environmental stewardship," said Richard Hayslip, associate general manager of Environmental Management, Policy and Compliance at SRP. "Working with the City of Chandler to achieve aggressive water reuse results, Intel Corporation has significantly reduced its environmental impact in the manufacturing process, demonstrating the potential of public/private partnerships."

Christine Ten Eyck, founder and principal of Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, served as lead judge for the program. Other jurists include: Kristin Bloomquist, general manager, Cramer-Krasselt; Robert Booker, executive director, Arizona Commission on the Arts; Tamara Caraway,

principal project development, Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company; Eddie Jones, principal, Jones Studio Inc., Jerry Meek, president, Desert Star Construction; Marty Sedler, director of Global Utilities and Infrastructure, Intel; Victor Vidales, board member, National and Arizona Audubon; and Dave Wilson, senior landscape architect, EPG.

Valley Forward is a non-profit public interest organization that brings business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to improve the environment and livability of Valley communities. The organization operates with the belief that business must take a leadership role in solving the complex and sometimes controversial problems that confront growing population centers.

***In addition to the U.S. Gonzales Pass, Soleri Bridge and Plaza and Intel's Ocotillo Campus, Crescordia winners include:***

***Meritage Homes Launches Net-Zero Revolution (Meritage Homes)***

Arizona-based Meritage Homes not only builds homes that cut energy usage by up to 80 percent but introduced the first “net-zero” production home in the state – one that could ultimately produce as much energy as it consumes.

***Chandler City Hall (SmithGroup)***

This modern, environmentally efficient building seeking LEED Gold Certification is located in the city's historic downtown and encompasses 137,700 square feet of office space, a public TV studio, art gallery and 330-space parking structure, as well as Council Chambers. Open space and shaded walkways welcome visitors to the complex, which features an array of sustainable design elements.

***Santa Fe Freight Depot (Arrington Watkins Architects)***

Originally opened in 1929, this historic Phoenix building sat vacant for more than 50 years before being revived in a sensitive and thoughtful preservation project that now serves as headquarters for the Maricopa County Assessor's Office and is currently seeking LEED Gold Certification.

***U-Haul Contributions to Phoenix Metro Area Built Environment (U-Haul International)***

Demonstrating a longstanding and strong commitment to sustainability, U-Haul routinely implements building and site improvements that benefit the environment from energy-efficient practices and water-saving techniques to permeable ground cover initiatives and adaptive reuse building conversions.

***Paradise Valley Community College – Life Sciences Building (Marlene Imirzian & Associates LLC, Architects)***

The innovative Paradise Valley Community College Life Sciences Building uses a diverse pallet of sustainable materials, including concrete floors and masonry, high recycle-content carpet and tack boards, bamboo doors and millwork, providing an environmentally friendly home for its growing anatomy, physiology and biology programs.

***Sustainable Landscape Management: Standards for Landscape Care In the Desert Southwest***  
(Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association)

The Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association has taken important steps to promote higher industry standards by adopting best recommended practices published in "Sustainable Landscape Management: Standards for Landscape Care in the Desert Southwest."

***Downtown Chandler Redevelopment*** (City of Chandler)

City officials and private partners joined forces to redevelop downtown Chandler, which had fallen into disrepair with boarded up buildings and high crime rates, into a walkable, lively core utilizing principles of environmental and economic sustainability.

***Arcadia Residence*** (colwell:shelor Landscape Architecture)

This one-acre site in Arcadia features a home and landscape renovation that honors the historic essence of the unique neighborhood, creating a seamless transition between interior and exterior living spaces that take advantage of existing lush citrus groves and maximizes views to the mountains.

***W.L. Gore & Associates Phoenix Campus*** (LVA Urban Design Studio)

Situated in the commercial core of the Sonoran Foothills Master Planned Community in North Phoenix, W.L. Gore & Associates' 40-acre campus is a model of responsible development, featuring only low-water use plants including many native species. Salvaging efforts saved 82 mature trees and 158 specimen cacti, all of which were replanted on site.

***White Tank Branch Library and Nature Center*** (Maricopa County Library District)

Surrounded entirely by desert, the 29,000-square-foot library and nature center is located at the entrance to White Tank Mountain Regional Park and is only the third library in the U.S. to earn LEED Platinum Certification. Energy efficiency, water conservation, passive solar design and returning the site to its native appearance were cornerstone to the project.

***Ikea Tempe Solar Energy Project*** (IKEA Tempe)

IKEA has installed a 75,000-square-foot solar array at its store in Tempe consisting of two 300-kilowatt systems, each built with approximately 1,300 panels. The solar program will produce approximately one million kWh of electricity annually, the equivalent of reducing at least 760 tons of carbon dioxide (equal to the emissions of 133 cars or powering 84 homes yearly).

***Conservation and Sustainable Living Programs*** (City of Glendale)

The newly created office of Conservation and Sustainable Living for the City of Glendale is educating residents, businesses and neighborhoods on sound environmental practices, giving away energy saving devices, providing teaching materials to schools and promoting sustainable landscaping.

***Sonoran Sustainable Building Advisor Program*** (Sonoran SBAP, Inc.)

Designed to advance education and expertise in sustainable solutions for the built environment in Arizona, this nine-month program for professionals teaches best practices in sustainability sciences. It does not require the commitment of an advanced degree but provides more depth than short courses or online programs.

***Valley Permaculture Alliance's Education Program (Valley Permaculture Alliance)***

The Valley Permaculture Alliance inspires sustainable urban living through education, community involvement and creative cooperation. Its programs include weekly sustainable living classes, monthly tours of local sustainable homes, ongoing hands-on training opportunities and special events.

***\*EDITOR'S NOTE: Project photos, additional details and Award of Merit descriptions can be provided, upon request.***

***A complete list of 2011 Environmental Excellence Award Winners  
and categories are included below and on the pages that follow.***

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**ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS – COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS**

***BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Residential***

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Meritage Homes Launches Net-Zero Revolution

Submitted by: Meritage Homes

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Cedar Street Residence 2010

Submitted by: colab studio, llc

***BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Civic***

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Chandler City Hall

Submitted by: SmithGroup

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Appaloosa Branch Library

Submitted by: Douglas Sydnor Architect and Associates, Inc.

Name of Entry: Harmon Public Library

Submitted by: richard+bauer, llc

***BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Historic Preservation***

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Santa Fe Freight Depot

Submitted by: Arrington Watkins Architects

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Shade Platform

Submitted by: SmithGroup

***BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Commercial & Mixed Use***

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: U-Haul Contributions to Phoenix Metro Area Built Environment

Submitted by: U-Haul International

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Macy's

Submitted by: Arizona Public Service

**BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Institutional**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Paradise Valley Community College - Life Sciences Building

Submitted by: Marlene Imirzian & Associates LLC, Architects

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Chandler-Gilbert Community College's Ironwood Hall

Submitted by: Architekton

Name of Entry: Arizona State University College of Nursing & Health Innovation Phase 2

Submitted by: SmithGroup

**BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Industrial & Public Works**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Intel Ocotillo Campus LEED Existing Building: Operations & Maintenance

Submitted by: ARCADIS

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Glendale Regional Public Safety Training

Submitted by: LEA-Architects, LLC

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Sustainable Communities**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Sustainable Landscape Management: Standards for Landscape Care in the  
Desert Southwest

Submitted by: Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Maricopa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Submitted by: Logan Simpson Design Inc.

Name of Entry: Saguaro Transplant Study

Submitted by: Logan Simpson Design Inc.

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Adaptive Reuse**

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Tempe Marketplace

Submitted by: Vestar Development Co.

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Multimodal Transportation & Connectivity**

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: 96th Street Improvement Project: Shea Boulevard to Thunderbird Road

Submitted by: City of Scottsdale

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES: Public Policy/Plans**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Downtown Chandler Redevelopment

Submitted by: City of Chandler

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Southern Scottsdale Character Area Plan

Submitted by: City of Scottsdale

**SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE: Residential**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Arcadia Residence

Submitted by: colwell:shelor Landscape Architecture

**SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE: Public Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: U.S. 60 Gonzales Pass

Submitted by: Logan Simpson Design Inc.

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: White Tank Branch Library and Nature Center

Submitted by: Maricopa County Library District

Name of Entry: South Arizona Avenue Improvement Project

Submitted by: City of Chandler

**SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE: Private Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: W.L. Gore & Associates Phoenix Campus

Submitted by: LVA Urban Design Studio

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: The Dot Garden

Submitted by: colwell:shelor Landscape Architecture

Name of Entry: Solar Pavilion at Chase Field

Submitted by: Arizona Public Service

**SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE: Trails**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Soleri Bridge

Submitted by: Howard S. Wright

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Loop 101 Crossing at 63rd Avenue

Submitted by: City of Glendale

**SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE: Parks**

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Harmon Park

Submitted by: Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture Public Art Program

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Soleri Bridge and Plaza

Submitted by: Scottsdale Public Art

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Extraordinarily Common

Submitted by: colab studio, llc

Name of Entry: Maple Ash Irrigation Standpipes Project

Submitted by: City of Tempe

**ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES: Public Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: White Tank Branch Library and Nature Center

Submitted by: Maricopa County Library District

**ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES: Private Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: IKEA Tempe Solar Energy Project

Submitted by: IKEA Tempe

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Edwin and Nancy Van Brunt Central Energy Plant

Submitted by: Phoenix Children's Hospital

Name of Entry: Water Conservation in Medical Device Industry

Submitted by: Medtronic, Inc.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION: Public Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Conservation and Sustainable Living Programs

Submitted by: City of Glendale

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Regional Tree & Shade Summit

Submitted by: Sustainable Cities Network/ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability

Name of Entry: White Tank Branch Library and Nature Center

Submitted by: Maricopa County Library District



**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION: Private Sector**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Sonoran Sustainable Building Advisor Program

Submitted by: Sonoran SBAP, Inc.

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Sustainable Landscape Management: Standards for Landscape Care in the  
Desert Southwest

Submitted by: Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION: Educators, Students & Nonprofit  
Organizations**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Valley Permaculture Alliance's Education Program

Submitted by: Valley Permaculture Alliance

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Keep Phoenix Beautiful Education Outreach Program

Submitted by: Keep Phoenix Beautiful

Name of Entry: The Arizona Challenge

Submitted by: Two Worlds Community Foundation

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – The SRP Award**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Intel Ocotillo Campus LEED Existing Building: Operations & Maintenance

Submitted by: ARCADIS

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Frito Lay Net Zero Program

Submitted by: Arizona Public Service

Name of Entry: Phoenix Public Art Program

Submitted by: Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture Public Art Program

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

Name of Entry: U.S. 60 Gonzales Pass

Submitted by: Logan Simpson Design Inc.

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