

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

VINCENT STRULLY JR. Founder and CEO The New England Center for Children



Vincent Strully Jr. founded The New England Center for Children (NECC) over 40 years ago with the vision of becoming the global leader in provision of effective,

evidence-based educational services for the millions of underserved children with autism, along with their families.

Strully brought this vision to life by identifying organizational needs and goals to best fulfill NECC's mission. He created a four-prong strategy that focuses on educational best practices based on scientifically proven applied behavior analysis to help children with autism, professional development of teachers and behavior analysts, research to support education of children with autism and development of scalable technology that leverage NECC's expertise and extensive research.

To-date, NECC has completed a \$10 million campaign that funded the John and Diane Kim Autism Institute and a 13,500 square-foot space for a new student wellness center. In 2016, student enrollment increased 10 percent, staff expanded by 13 percent and worldwide adoption of NECC's autism curriculum increased to 15 percent.

"Vincent has spearheaded successful fundraising campaigns and grant awards to finance new programs and growth, including a \$5.5 million capital campaign, a \$10.9 million capital campaign and a \$3.4 million technology grant from Microsoft," Kyla McHaffie, executive assistant at NECC, said.

RUNNER-UP

DAVID K. MAIN President and CEO HCDC, Inc.



David K. Main founded HCDC, Inc., formerly known as Hamilton County Development Co. Inc. HCDC is a nonprofit organization overseeing economic development

activities for the largest county in Greater Cincinnati. Main will retire in the Spring of 2018 after remaining at the helm of the

organization's 35-year history. Throughout the years, Main's strategic vision, attention to detail and working knowledge of HCDC's three areas (small business lending, economic development and business incubation) has enabled him to help his staff cultivate growth for the organization internally and organically. Main has also served on the Minority Entrepreneur Seminar panel for the Ohio Department of Development and previously served as president for the Ohio Development Association, as well as president, treasurer and director for the National Association of Development Companies.

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

ALICE ESTRADA Executive Director Annapolis Maritime Museum



Before February 2013, the museum's operating budget was in the negative and the educational programs were stagnant. Since her appointment to executive director of the Annapolis

Maritime Museum, Alice Estrada has successfully developed and executed a bold new vision for the expansion of the museum's facilities, exhibits and programs. Due to her efforts, the museum has seen a significant increase in growth. A few of Estrada's success over the course of five years include the museum's education center, which went from serving 2,900 students in 2013 to over 6,500 in 2016; and the average attendance of the Winter Lecture Series, which went from 37 per event in 2013 to 145 in 2017.

"Alice has done so much more than expand the museum's education programs, special events and fundraising events. She has proactively led initiatives to secure the museum's history and archive the maritime history of the Chesapeake region," Eric Rubin, chairperson for the Annapolis Maritime Museum, said "As executive director, she established best

practices for the museum's collections and installed a living shoreline on the museum's beachfront property."

In addition, Estrada also helped negotiate a 40-year lease with the City of Annapolis for management of the Nature Park at Back Creek, a 12-acre urban ecology park that had fallen in disrepair. Estrada seized the opportunity to expand the museum's education programs—the education center now has doubled its reach with the acquisition of the park with an esti-

mated 9,000 students by 2018.

One of the most important things to note is the museum's revenue increase. In 2016, the museum reported \$867,000 in budget revenue with a surplus of \$77,000—a 77 percent increase since 2012.

"She has led an expansion of the Annapolis Maritime Museum with a steady hand of leadership, a bold vision for the future and a caring warmth for impacting the community in a positive way," Rubin said.

RUNNER-UP

SHERMAN GILLUMS JR. Executive Director Paralyzed Veterans of America



Previously serving as program officer for the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's Close Combat Program and director of the Combat

Visual Information Center, Sherman Gillums Jr. sustained a cervical spine injury from a vehicle collision. The accident occurred after the Sept. 11 attacks, while he was preparing to deploy to

Afghanistan with the 1st Marine Division. While his military service is of high note and recognition, his service to the Paralyzed Veterans of America should not go unnoticed.

His leadership and advocacy is felt internally and externally—within the organization and to the broader community. He frequently speaks at events where he advocates for the organization's cause, such as his most recent Facebook Live event at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. His inspirational leadership style and dedication to the continual evolution of the organization makes him a well-qualified candidate for Executive of the Year. ▶