



2010 STAR AWARD



The following SDA members have been nominated by their chapters to receive the 2010 Star Award.

Taylor Alexander, Baton Rouge

Taylor Alexander was the driving force behind the establishment of the Baton Rouge Chapter in 2009 and served as its first president. Taylor learned of SDA after making personal inquiries about gathering a group of local administrators to share knowledge. In May 2008, Taylor contacted two local SDA members-at-large about the possibility of establishing an active chapter. Over lunch, the three women agreed to begin the process of establishing a chapter with Taylor at the helm. Over the following months, Taylor worked tirelessly and with tremendous enthusiasm reaching out to the A/E/C community and building a database of potential members. She scheduled informational meetings and recruited potential members. Taylor oversaw the completion of the paperwork necessary for the chapter's affiliation with national SDA. This included the legal documents needed for creation of the SDA-Baton Rouge as a non-profit entity with the Louisiana Secretary of State and our designation as a tax exempt 501c (6) entity with the Internal Revenue Service. With Taylor leading the way, Baton Rouge design administrators now have a professional organization to provide education, networking, professional growth and recognition.

Sandra Beckel, CDFA, Minneapolis/St. Paul

... Sandra has given significant contributions to the membership of our Chapter through attendance at the majority of our meetings, encouraging and mentoring other members, as well as being a member of the chapter Board in the roles of Secretary, President-Elect, President and Past President/Director. She has also been dedicated to serving and providing leadership on many of the various committees within the Chapter. Nationally, Sandra held the position of Central Region Director for two years. ...

Grace Garland, CDFA, Seattle

Grace stepped up to the challenge of a second term as Chapter President, when the Chapter did not have any qualified, willing candidates to serve in 2009-2010. Grace not only shares her knowledge with our Chapter members, but with all SDA members. Over the past year Grace has organized and presented a half day seminar, numerous how-to-brown bags, and an SDA National webinar. She also maintains our website and is involved in all aspects of growing our chapter from membership recruitment to keeping our mailing database up to date. Grace has worked tirelessly to keep Seattle's CANstruction events alive in an effort to boost SDA's visibility and encourage recruitment. Grace is an excellent role model, with respect to leadership, professionalism, and commitment to SDA!

Tami Griffin, CDFA, Southern Arizona

When asked to write about Tami for our chapter's star award many things came to mind. It became difficult to summarize all her successes and accomplishments as a member of SAC/SDA. The first thing that comes to mind is that Tami is a doer; when something needs to get done, it gets done. Tami has a very strong loyalty to SDA. She not only believes in our mission on a professional basis but applies it to all aspects of her life. ...I have witnessed her growth in self-confidence and the somewhat shy girl I met twelve years ago has since disappeared and now here she is in front of us all, leading the way. Tami is one of the most trustworthy, dependable, ethical and hardworking members of our chapter. Not only is she President this term but has held the office before, what a commitment!

Rhonda Holcomb, Houston

Rhonda has always been there for each one of us on the Board and for all of the SDA Houston members. She has a gust of energy and excitement that motivates and inspires. She approaches every task with sincere emotions and a "can-do" attitude. She is very positive in her actions and sure about her path. She has gone over and beyond the call of duty in every position she served. ... the SDA Houston Board, feel Rhonda is most deserving of this prestigious award. She is our shining "star" and we want her to shine nationally.

Patricia Leyden, CDFA, New York

Pat served as Recording Secretary and Vice President for two years in each position of the New York Chapter and is currently our President. While Pat was Vice President and Membership Chair, she helped the chapter reach 100 members for the first time ever! Pat has attended two EDSymposiums and two Leadership Conferences. She is a Certified Design Firm Administrator. Pat suggested and has organized a few informal functions after work so that members and potential members can get together to network and enjoy each others company. ...

Pam Loomis, CDFA, Denver

... Pam is a Star because she sees what needs to be done and has always stepped in to help the Chapter in the most constructive manner. Sometimes it means drawing in and challenging a new or non-participatory member to expand their horizons with a new task. She has done this often as a committee chairperson and, of course, as a frequent member of our Nominating Committee. Other times it means performing a service herself – PDQ; taking the bull-by-the-horns and troubleshooting when an important task looks like it might be de-railed or delayed. Pam Loomis has been an always smiling, totally dependable and inspiring Star for the Denver Chapter...

Natalie Newman, Orange County

Natalie has proven to be a shining example of what an exemplary SDA member is – dedicated, active, and involved, not only with our Chapter, but also on a National level by attending conventions and spearheading OC's involvement in Canstruction. Natalie takes on a lot of responsibility and does a very admirable job. Starting her fourth term as President, she has grown as a leader and deserves the recognition for her many efforts. She is a glowing star in the Orange County Chapter and her brilliance should be recognized!

Kelly Perkins, Portland

Kelly has been a very active, enthusiastic member since 1997. She has been on the board more often than not, and always on various committees. She is always there, volunteering for whatever the task may be and doing it with such excitement she gets everyone else eager to get things done as well. She is always talking SDA to anyone she encounters and has brought our chapter new members, sponsors, and sparked many a principal's interest. She chaired the 2009 construction event which was one of the most successful in the Chapter's history, which produced our first International Award for "Best Use of Labels" for the "Yes We Can" structure. She is currently active on the National PR Committee and we are very proud of her for stepping up. We feel very fortunate that Kelly is part of our Chapter and even more so that she is our friend and mentor.

Kimberly Trabue, Mid Missouri

As an original member of the Mid Missouri Chapter of the Society for Design Administration Kim Trabue has offered invaluable knowledge and experience in the realm of professional design services to the members of the Chapter since its founding in October of 1997. During that time she has served in many capacities including Membership Chair and Programs Chair, and is currently serving as Vice President. For twelve years she has been our Chapter's Canstruction Chair, coordinating the yearly event which includes signing up teams, seeking donations, developing public relations materials, serving as a liaison with the event location and food bank staff, organizing the awards ceremony, submitting the awards to SDA National, etc.This dedication to Canstruction has sparked the community's interest in the event and resulted in positive public relations for our chapter and the construction industry.

Sarah Wallace, CDFA, Atlanta

Sarah has shown exemplary service to the Atlanta Chapter for several years and is currently in the Past President role for our chapter. She took care of the checkbook for two years while starting our Newsletter again and has kept it going ever since. She has helped AIA with the Canstruction event and raised money every year. She initiated new efforts for our chapter (networking with other orgs, networking events with chapter members, Leadership conference, etc. just to name a few). She is relentless, outgoing, good natured and hardworking and always has a positive attitude. She goes above and beyond the call of duty every time. We think that Sarah deserves this award.