

PRESS RELEASE

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THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AVIATION ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES ITS 2013 WINGS AWARD WINNERS

(Carlsbad, Calif., Dec. 19, 2013) –The Southern California Aviation Association (SCAA) announced the rollout of its new Wings Award in 2013. The Wings Award was established by the SCAA Board of Directors to promote and support excellence in aviation and to honor outstanding contributions to the aviation community.

“The SCAA Wings Award was developed to recognize individual contributions and achievements by our peers,” said President of the Southern California Aviation Association Steve Nielsen. “Our award winners serve as strong and credible voices for our entire aviation community. I am confident they will make even greater strides in the future and inspire others to be leaders in our region.”

On April 29 this year, SCAA honored the first recipient at its eighth Annual Golf Tournament. The award went to Chris Nielsen, Chief Pilot for Avalon Capital, who was honored for his outstanding contribution as an SCAA Treasurer and Board Director. He is also the founder of the SCAA Safety Committee and currently chairs the National Business Aviation Association’s (NBAA) Access Committee. Chris has spent countless hours committed to the Aviation Community.

SCAA’s second award went to Candace Covington on September 16 at the annual Safety Stand-down. Candace was honored for her involvement in many aviation programs, including the Outreach Aviation program for challenged youth. Candace is also the Chief Pilot for Qualcomm, a Pilot Examiner, SCAA Safety Committee Chair and a member of the NBAA Safety Committee.

SCAA presented a third Wings Award to Curt Castagna at its annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive on December 10. Curt is the CEO and President of the Aerolease/Aeroplex Group. Curt was honored for his remarkable professional accomplishments, deep commitment to advancing aviation in Southern California and long history of educating the community about the importance of airport businesses.

“I’m extremely honored to have received this award and recognition and would like to thank SCAA for the vital work it performs to advance and promote the importance of business aviation to the public,” said award winner Curt Castagna. “Addressing the concerns of our region’s airports truly requires the collaboration and involvement of the entire aviation community. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of that very important effort.”

Southern California Aviation Association’s Mission

To advance and promote aviation related business throughout Southern California; to be proactive in addressing concerns impacting the region’s airports, including safety and operations; and to promote education on the importance of business aviation to our communities, companies and the general public.

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