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Lee Allan Smith Oklahoma Legacy Award and Heritage Week Awards presented

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Hall of Fame presented Debby Hampton with the 2015 Lee Allan Smith Oklahoma Legacy Award and 14 students from across the state with certificates and cash awards Thursday for their winning entries in the Oklahoma Heritage Week poster, essay and video competitions.

Debby Hampton serves as the president and CEO of United Way of Central Oklahoma. Prior to that, she was president and CEO of the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits for four years. Debby spent 16 years with the American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma, including the last four years as CEO. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Debby is an active leader in the community and serves on several nonprofit boards, including Leadership Oklahoma City, The Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City, Junior League of Oklahoma City, the Committee of One Hundred and the Oklahoma City University Advisory Committee for the Nonprofit Leadership Program. She is an alumna of Leadership Oklahoma, Leadership Oklahoma City and Leadership Tulsa’s Executive Series. Lee Allan Smith presented the award to Hampton. Past award recipients include Kari Watkins, Tricia Everest, Paul Massad, the late Bill Thrash and Bob Burke.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame has hosted the Heritage Week competition for the past 38 years to encourage third through 12th graders throughout the state to embrace and honor their heritage. Third through fifth graders competed in the poster competition, sixth through eighth graders in the essay competition and ninth through 12th graders in the video competition. All of the entries had to depict an Oklahoman and his or her impact on the state.

“Oklahoma’s history is full of diverse individuals, rich in the five characteristics presented in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum – perseverance, pioneer spirit, optimism, generosity and individualism,” said Shannon L. Rich, president and CEO of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Gaylord-Pickens Museum. “Through this competition and our Museum, students have the opportunity to connect with outstanding individuals who have made a meaningful impact on our state and are inspired to make their own mark on our history.”

Students selected subjects ranging from Jeane Kirkpatrick and Kevin Durant to Marjorie Tallchief and Woody Guthrie. Many students used the opportunity to explore the lives and accomplishments of lesser-known Oklahomans, finding new heroes along the way.

Mark A. Stansberry, Chairman, and Shannon L. Rich, president and CEO for the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb and Gov. George Nigh, Bill Schonacher, Jeni Bruns and Gib Gibson, representing Heritage Week sponsor IBC Bank, presented the awards to the students at the organization’s home, the Gaylord-Pickens Museum. Louise Painter chaired the 2015 Oklahoma Heritage Week Awards for the 38 year. Oklahoma Hall of Fame board of directors in attendance were Chairman Emeritus Joe Moran III, Frank Merrick Teresa Rose, Lee Allan Smith and Mike Turpen.

For more information about the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, the Lee Allan Smith Oklahoma Legacy Award or the annual Oklahoma Heritage Week competitions, please call 405.235.4458, toll free 888.501.2059, or visit oklahomahof.com.

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