

Two Plumas County men honored by Sierra Business Council



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When the Sierra Business Council handed out its annual Vision 2020 awards in Sacramento last Thursday, March 19, two Plumas County men found themselves on the podium.

Paul Hardy, executive director of the Feather River Land Trust, was awarded for his achievement in building one of the most effective and enduring land trusts in California. Hardy has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to partnership and collaboration and has imparted a strong ethic of conservation among many leaders according to SBC.

This year's winners also included the partnership between executive chef Mark Estee of Moody's Bistro & Lounge, Baxter's Bistro and Lounge, and founder of Burger Me in Truckee, and Gary Romano from Sierra Valley Farms. SBC noted the pair demonstrated support for sustainable food in the Sierra Valley, Lake Tahoe and Placer County areas. Estee and Romano's relationship demonstrates commitment to local farmers and sustainable agriculture.

Each year, the Sierra Business Council, a regional sustainability nonprofit, hosts an event to recognize and encourage leadership in the Sierra, honoring community members as their work continues to achieve excellence in projects and approaches that foster community vitality, environmental quality, economic prosperity and social fairness.

"Throughout the Sierra, we recognize the growing need to bridge the divide between rural and urban communities in California. Bringing our Vision 2020 celebration to Sacramento does just that," said SBC's president Steven Frisch.

To highlight the issue, this year's theme for the Vision 2020 Awards was a Sierra Getaway Party. The free event was open to anyone who wanted to "escape to the Sierra" for the evening.

The Vision 2020 awards celebration featured presentations from award winners and appetizers and dessert sourced from the Sierra with the help of the Placer Gold Slow Food chapter.

Other winners included John Wentworth of Mammoth Lakes who was honored for his accomplishments with Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access. MLTPA has worked diligently to bring much-deserved focus and attention to the future of the Mammoth community and its critical relationship with environmental resources.

MLTPA has engaged with town government, federal agencies, other nonprofits, and public and private businesses to work collaboratively toward its mission.

Phil Carville, president and chief executive of Carville Sierra Inc., a family owned and operated development company, was recognized for his outstanding work on the

Loma Rica Ranch project in Grass Valley. Carville has become one of the region's most determined spokesmen for new urbanism, traditional neighborhood design and smart growth within the Sierra Nevada.

SBC serves the entire Sierra Nevada region. As a nonprofit association of more than 750 businesses, agencies and individual members, Sierra Business Council is committed to promoting a new perspective on regional wealth while emphasizing collaboration in planning and policy making.