



**GRADUATE! PHILADELPHIA WINS THE PRESTIGIOUS
ALLIANCE FOR REGIONAL STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL CHAMPION AWARD**

Summer 2008

Philadelphia – Graduate! Philadelphia is a winner of the prestigious Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS) Organizational Champion Award.

The Organizational Champion Award recognizes regions, regional alliances and regional leaders for excellence and demonstrated progress in at least one of the four principles of regional stewardship: innovative economy, livable communities, social inclusion and a collaborative style of governance. Award winners exemplify regional cooperation efforts that have increased regional capacity, achieved tangible results and shown the potential for sustainability.

“Successful regional stewards,” said ARS Chairman and CEO of the Allegheny Conference, F. Michael Langley, “help their communities to thrive economically, to be sustainable environmentally and to have the web of mutual obligations, caring, trust and shared values that make possible the accomplishment of group purpose. It’s my honor to recognize Graduate! Philadelphia for its outstanding work on these fronts.”

“We’re honored that our hard work has been recognized,” said Sallie Glickman, co-founder of Graduate! Philadelphia and CEO of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board. “Graduate! Philadelphia is helping create a stronger, better-prepared workforce for the city and the region, so we can become more globally competitive. That’s especially important now, considering the struggling economy.”

“Graduate! Philadelphia is already seeing numerous of our clients re-enrolling in college, and we are so very proud of them,” Graduate! Philadelphia Executive Director Hadass Sheffer said. “But just as importantly, we’re connecting more employers, unions, and colleges to this movement. We need many organizations and individuals pulling in the same direction if we are to make a real and lasting change here.”

The Alliance for Regional Stewardship Awards were established in 2004 to recognize multi-city and multi-county urban communities that have abandoned rivalries, pooled resources and worked together to ensure their shared prosperity. The annual Organizational Champion Award is the highest honor ARS bestows.



Accepting the award from left: David Thornburgh, co-founder of Graduate! Philadelphia, David Fair, G!P Managing Partner, Sallie Glickman, co-founder and Managing Partner, and Hadass Sheffer, G!P Executive Director, holding the glass award. Photo courtesy of ARS, 2008.

Graduate! Philadelphia is one of only two winners honored in 2008. Four other organizations were recognized as finalists. Winners and finalists were selected from a nationwide pool of candidates by a panel of judges. Members of the 2008 Regional Stewardship Award Judging Panel include Janet Davis of the Westerville (OH) Area Chamber of Commerce, Richard C.D. Fleming of the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association, former Orlando Mayor and Florida Secretary of State Glenda Hood, Dr. Lyssa Jenkins of the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Farley Peters of Citistates Group and David Warm of the Mid-America Regional Council.

The Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS) is a national, peer-to-peer network of regional leaders working across boundaries to solve tough community problems. Supported by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, ARS members come from business, government, education, and the civic sectors and share a common commitment to collaborative action and achieving results. ARS is committed to the idea that strong and vibrant regional communities are built on four principles of regional stewardship: an innovative economy, livable communities, social inclusion, and a collaborative style of governance.

Award winners and finalists were honored July 29 at the ARS Regional Strategies Forum in Pittsburgh.

About Graduate! Philadelphia

Graduate! Philadelphia is an initiative of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board and the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania to increase the number of working adults with college degrees in the Greater Philadelphia region. For more information, please visit www.GraduatePhiladelphia.org

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