



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

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L.A. AREA CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 117TH INAUGURAL DINNER HONOREES

***Jan. 26, 2006 event to install AT&T's Dave Nichols as Board Chair,
recognize philanthropist Sherry Lansing
and University of Southern California President Steve Sample***

December 19, 2005 (Los Angeles) -- More than 1,000 business leaders, civic leaders and elected officials from across the Los Angeles region are expected to celebrate the 117th year of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual Inaugural Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 26, at The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

At the gala event, Dave Nichols, senior vice president external affairs, AT&T (formerly SBC), will be installed as the new Chair of the Board. He takes the reins from Immediate Past Chair Christopher Martin, CEO, AC Martin Partners, one of Los Angeles' oldest architecture and planning firms.

"While the L.A. Area Chamber played an integral part in this region's history and development, it will perhaps have an even more crucial role in determining its vision for the future," said Nichols. "Each year, the Chamber makes its mark on the region by providing a strong voice on the issues that enhance the quality of life for businesses—and all Angelenos. I am honored to serve as 2006 Board Chair and eager to do my part in carrying out the Chamber's mission in 2006."

In the spirit of community-building, the Chamber annually recognizes extraordinary civic leadership at the Inaugural Dinner gala and will pay special tribute to its 2006 honorees: Civic Medal of Honor recipient Sherry Lansing and Distinguished Business Leader Award recipient Dr. Steven B. Sample.

CIVIC MEDAL OF HONOR: Sherry Lansing

Appointed to run 21st Century Fox in 1980, Lansing is one of the first women to run a major motion picture company. Later named chair of Paramount Motion Picture Group in 1991, she became the highest-ranking female in the entertainment industry. After retiring from Paramount in 2005, Lansing began The Sherry Lansing Foundation, bankrolling it personally and focusing its efforts in two areas: cancer research and educational causes.

Lansing will receive the Chamber's "Civic Medal of Honor" award. The award is presented for extraordinary civic leadership and public service by an individual who, by their commitment, leadership and character, reflects the very best in each of us, and who sets examples in civic life and personal excellence that serve as models for future

generations. Past recipients of the award are former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, business leader and philanthropist Eli Broad and civil rights leader John Mack.

DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS LEADER: Dr. Steven B. Sample

Steven B. Sample became USC's 10th president in 1991. A tenured professor in the school of engineering, Sample regularly teaches undergraduates, including a much sought-after course titled "The Art and Adventure of Leadership." Under Sample's leadership, USC has become world-renowned in the fields of communication and multimedia technologies, received national acclaim for its innovative community partnerships and solidified its status as one of the nation's leading research universities.

The Distinguished Business Leader Award is presented to an individual who demonstrates an extraordinary dedication to the Chamber or the Los Angeles business community both professionally and through philanthropic pursuits.

Attendees of this annual dinner and event read like a who's who of Los Angeles County political, civic and business leadership. From members of Congress to local city councilmembers, corporate executives to small business entrepreneurs, the audience represents of the diversity and entrepreneurial energy of the Los Angeles region.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information visit www.lachamber.org.