

Chandler named All-America City

Local government clinches key award

By Edythe Jensen

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Chandler won the equivalent of an Oscar for outstanding local government performance Friday in Kansas City, Mo. It was named one of the nation's 10 All-America Cities by the National Civic League.

Chandler captured the title for the first time. It was this year's only Arizona nominee and had been a finalist for the honor in 1988 and 1992.

Chandler promoted an underage drinking task force, a health

clinic for indigent students, and the Chandler Heights Community Facilities that include an environmental-education center and water-recharge ponds.

"This puts the stamp of approval on what we're doing and lets volunteers know we can be recognized if we all work together," Mayor Boyd Dunn said minutes after he accepted the award. "This will bring pride to our city, and I am certain we will use it for economic development."

The honors were bestowed by the National Civic League in Kansas City, and 24 government, school and community representatives from Chandler were there to promote the commu-

nity, including Annette Auxier, president of the Chandler Unified School District Board, and several families and students.

Twenty-six finalists from across the nation spent three days showcasing hometown projects.

Winners "must demonstrate innovation, inclusiveness, civic engagement, and cross-sector collaboration by describing successful efforts to address pressing local challenges," according to the National Civic League website.

The national cachet that comes with an All-America title has helped communities win grants and attract employers, contest officials said.

Arizona's All-America Cities

Phoenix: 1950, 1958, 1979-80,* 1989, 2009.

Mesa: 1978-79.*

Tempe: 1984-85,* 2003.

Goodyear: 2008.

Flowing Wells: 2007.

Sedona: 2005.

Hayden: 1958.

Maricopa County: 1954.

*One set of awards given for two years.

Source: National Civic League All-America City Awards