

2019 Ethics Awards

By Shannon Warren for the April 15, 2019 edition of The Journal Record

Each year, OK Ethics hosts their annual Statewide Community Impact Awards program to acknowledge best practices promoting Oklahoma values of integrity in the workplace and our communities. At their luncheon on April 23, they will honor **Thomas Hill III, CEO of Kimray, Inc.** as this year's Executive Pilot Award recipient, while also recognizing four other worthy organizations:

WPX Energy

Tulsa-based WPX Energy, Inc. efforts are hallmarked by their gritty determination to get things done, remaining steadfastly engaged and following through. Their CEO emphasizes the spirit of what's called the Code of the West which emphasizes acting with courage, taking pride in your work, finishing what you start, doing what has to be done and keeping promises.

With regard to the latter, when an error involving an over-statement was discovered in 2018, the company immediately reported it to the affected charity, while promptly owning up to the error by helping to offset the shortfall through a one-time corporate gift. That took guts and an unexpected sacrifice.

ReMerge

An OKC-based nonprofit, ReMerge's mission is to help high-risk, high-need pregnant women and mothers who are facing incarceration. ReMerge provides the opportunity to become productive citizens by offering therapy and classes that highlight the importance of living with integrity, honesty and strong moral character. Using Moral Reconciliation Therapy, an evidence-based model designed to address criminogenic thinking, they help participants increase moral reasoning.

Since the implementation of the program in 2011, ReMerge has positively impacted the lives of 122 graduates and their 310 children. They have a 67% completion rate and a low 6% recidivism rate. According to Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Noma Gurich, their efforts have saved taxpayers over \$14 million dollars.

Awards were also given to **Metro Technology Centers** and **Christian Heritage Academy (CHA)** in the Education Category. Both campuses put a strong emphasis on good character. For example, while other schools may be trash-talking their opponents, students at **CHA** are feeding dinner to the opposing team and even attending rival's home games when they had no fans to cheer for them.

Metro Tech has been actively involved in OK Ethics activities in a number of years and is the only Oklahoma Career Technology Center High School Ethics Team in the state.

More information about the event and these honorees can be found at www.okethics.org

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