

The Arne M. Sorenson Excellence in Leadership Awards

The Arne M. Sorenson Excellence in Leadership Awards were created to honor our friend and Officer of the Board of Directors of The Economic Club of Washington, D.C. While serving as the President and CEO of Marriott, International, Inc., the largest hospitality company in the world, Arne was Chairing the Economic Club's Global Initiative Task Force from 2017 to 2021, leading efforts to expand the Club's international programming and visibility.

The Arne M. Sorenson Excellence in Leadership Award recognizes the outstanding achievement and dedication of leaders whose contributions to the Economic Club and the community demonstrate the Economic Club of Washington's mission to strengthen our region through business, civic, diplomatic and philanthropic leadership.

The attributes of this award are reflected in Chairman David Rubenstein's description of Mr. Sorenson, "Talented, thoughtful, compassionate, and generous with his time. Arne was the best that America can hope for from its business leaders and will long remain a role model for aspiring and active CEOs and community leaders. The Club was fortunate to have his engagement."

These awards include two categories: individual and organization.

2022 Inaugural Awardees

INDIVIDUALS

Linda Rabbitt

Linda Rabbitt, Founder and Chairman of rand* Construction Corporation, founded rand* Construction in 1989 in the Washington, D.C. metro region. Over its 33-year history, rand* has grown from seven employees to the largest woman-founded and owned, commercial general contractor in the nation. Rand* is an award-winning general contractor with additional offices in five major cities across the U.S.

The same leadership that Linda utilized to grow her business, she also shared with local organizations, including the Economic Club. She joined the Economic Club of Washington as a member in August of 1992 and by 1993 she began her service on the Board of Directors which continued until 2001. After a hiatus, Linda rejoined the Board in July of 2008 and is presently still serving as a director. She has also served on various board committees including membership and nominating. She is the longest serving Director in the Club's history.

In 2013, as the Economic Club took on a strategic review, Linda served on the Committee that made recommendations on the roadmap for the next five years. In the fall of 2019, The Linda Rabbitt and John Whalen Family Foundation contributed \$100,000 to the Scholars to Leaders Legacy Fund enabling emergency grants and special stipends for Economic Club scholarship winners.

Gina F. Adams

Gina Adams is the Senior Vice President for Government and Regulatory Affairs at FedEx Corporation. She shapes and promotes, in the political and policy arenas, the interests of all FedEx Corporation operating companies, which have over 600,000 employees serving more than 220 countries and territories. As a lawyer and the company's top lobbyist, she works with Administration officials, members of Congress, the diplomatic community and industry associations on domestic and international commerce, infrastructure, and transportation issues.

Gina joined the Economic Club of Washington in 2015. A year later she began serving on the Education Committee becoming its Co-chair in 2016 and the Committee's Chair in 2017.

Over the last six years, Gina has led the Education committee through the expansion of the Club's Scholars to Leaders programs that provides internships, mentoring, alumni engagement, academic enrichment opportunities, and graduate-level fellowships for public school students from Washington, D.C. These member-driven programs ensure that scholars gain exposure to the business world and valuable career experience. Gina Adams, a skilled interviewer herself, interviewed David Rubenstein and Shelia Johnson at Club events.

In 2020, Gina served as Co-Chair of the Economic Club's Racial Equity Task Force that created a strategic framework to make significant changes and enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of the Club's operations and programming.

ORGANIZATION

The A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation – Robert Flanagan, Director

The Clark Foundation has donated \$1B in funding to nonprofits across the U.S. over the past seven years. The DC Metropolitan region is the beneficiary of \$325M of those funds.

Robert Flanagan is a director of The A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, headed by Courtney Clark Pastrick. The Foundation supports the work of organizations with strong leadership and values that reflect those of their founder, A. James Clark. Their mission is to expand opportunities for those who demonstrate the drive and determination to better themselves and their communities. One of the foundations focuses is, together with their partners, to provide members of the DC community the best opportunity to thrive.

Beginning in 2018, the Clark Foundation awarded the David M. Rubenstein/Economic Club of Washington Scholarship program \$100,000, making it possible to add five additional scholarships, per year, for students of D.C. public and public charter schools. To date, the Foundation has awarded the Club's scholarship program \$500,000, supporting 25 DC students through college.