



San Diego's Voice for
Binational Business

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Immediate

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**Corky McMillin Companies, Marine Group Boat Works, j. simms agency, SCEDC Vice President, U.S.
Customs and Border Protection and SANDAG Honored at 2011 Summit**

South County EDC's 21st Annual Economic Summit was bigger and better than ever this year as hundreds of South County EDC members, U.S. and Mexican officials, as well as business and community leaders piled into the San Diego Convention Center for a day's worth of panel discussions, development updates and service awards.

South County EDC President Christine Moore and Unified Port of San Diego Commissioner Dukie Valderrama kicked off the awards ceremony portion of the Summit by honoring local businesses and community leaders who made a difference in 2010 in the areas of regional development and forging binational relationships in order to achieve economic progress.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection received the Binational Endeavor Award sponsored by j. simms agency. Moore thanked CBP for working with South County EDC to resolve border-crossing issues uncovered in a year-long pedestrian crossing survey. It's most notable accomplishment was the opening of a new SENTRI office in San Ysidro that averages 100 appointments daily.

The Regional Leadership Award, sponsored by Allied Waste, was given to the San Diego Association of Governments. Valderrama commemorated the entity for its support of the South Bay Expressway, which has paved the way for future development of the eastern portions of Otay Mesa and Chula Vista.

Marine Group Boat Works was the recipient of the South Bay Expressway-sponsored Outstanding Corporate Citizen Award and the Corky McMillin Companies was honored with the new Pioneer Award, sponsored by AT&T.

Marine Group Boat Works has made many contributions in the past two years, the most significant being a donation of more than \$60,000 worth of materials, services, products and in-kind supplies to benefit local nonprofit organizations.

Corky McMillin Companies is the first to receive the Pioneer Award, an award presented to a business whose visionary contributions have broken societal, political or economic barriers. This privately owned business was named the region's biggest advocate because of its multitude of investments to help build a greater future for South County residents.

Final awards were given to two business and community leaders for their dedication to serving South County. Julia Simms of the j. simms agency won the Corky McMillin Best of South County Award because of her work in boosting South County tourism. She was commemorated for co-chairing the Tourism Task Force, working with the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau to have a South County landing page developed on the organization's Website and leading the effort to create two brochures that highlight the best places to visit in the region. Finally, South County EDC Vice President President Bill Tunstall was honored with the Marilyn Lassman Golden Dedication and Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in drafting new policies, developing strategic plans and volunteering with a number of organizations in the South Bay region.

For more information about this year's Economic Summit, visit www.southcountyedc.com or call Cindy Gompper-Graves at 619-424-5143.

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