

2007 CFMA Arizona Construction Executive of the Year Douglas D. Gardner, Achen-Gardner, Inc.

From a large selection of extremely qualified individuals, Douglas Gardner of Achen-Gardner, Inc. was selected as the **2007 CFMA Arizona Construction Executive of the Year**.

Doug, born and raised in Smith Center, Kansas graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in Business and **Accounting**. He then went on to serve in the US Army, including a stint in Viet Nam. He entered the construction business in 1973 with Hunt Building Corporation in El Paso, Texas. His career includes employment with Pulte Homes where he assisted with the opening of the Arizona office. In 1982 he formed the first of several Achen-Gardner companies with Sanders Achen. The Achen-Gardner Companies, beginning with a small housing operation in Casa Grande, quickly expanded in the 1980's to commercial and highway construction.

Over the last 25 years, Achen-Gardner continued to expand and cover a diverse scope of construction needs with their divisions:

- ▶ Achen Gardner Engineering, LLC – heavy highway construction
- ▶ Achen Contractors, LLC, – subcontract framing
- ▶ GDC Homes – residential development and construction, and
- ▶ RMA Rental and Leasing,



LLP – heavy equipment leasing
Doug views his role as mentoring key employees to become great leaders. As Chairman, Doug focuses on financial systems, bonding and insurance, and legal and administrative areas of the business. He says, about the group of companies, "We are unique because most firms are either home builders, subcontractors, or heavy highway constructors. We are a diverse family of companies with many specialties, all related to construction." He continues, "the key to success is developing people – we are in the people business."

Doug believes in contributing to his industry and to the community. He served for 12 years on the ABA Board

of Directors, including as its Treasurer. He is involved with the ASU Del E. Webb School of Construction and encourages all of his employees to give back to the construction industry.

Most notable, however, is his continued support of local charities. He allocates a percentage of the company profits every year for charitable donations. Some of the beneficiaries of that generosity include Habitat for Humanity, Season for Sharing, and the East Valley Institute of Technology. Other East Valley charities and youth scholarships benefit annually from the Achen-Gardner Chandler Horizon Rotary Club Hole-In-One Contest.

CONGRATULATIONS to Douglas Gardner, the 2007 CFMA Construction Industry Executive of the Year!

Douglas D. Gardner

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