



NEWS RELEASE

from

AICUP

Association of Independent Colleges
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AICUP HONORS SENATORS RICHARD ALLOWAY AND KIM WARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION IN PA

HARRISBURG, April 13, 2016 -- The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP) presented its annual Ben Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement on Behalf of Higher Education to Senators Richard Alloway and Kim Ward Monday night at the Harrisburg Hilton. The Benjamin Franklin Medal is awarded each year during AICUP's Annual Meeting to individuals or organizations that have made an extraordinary impact on Pennsylvania's colleges and universities.

"For the first time this year, we are honoring two individuals simultaneously because they worked together so beautifully to initiate a very important new program focused on helping middle income students pay for college," said AICUP President Don Francis in announcing the award. Senators Ward and Alloway reintroduced the legislation to create the Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS) Program, which started in the 2014-15 academic year. They worked with former Governor Corbett, legislative leaders, and Rep. Marguerite Quinn, the House sponsor of RTSS, to ensure that it was funded with \$5 million in a very tight budget year.

"We are delighted that the RTSS Program got off to such a good start and positively helped 3,252 middle-income students in its first year," Francis said. "We are equally delighted that the RTSS Program was funded at \$5 million once again this year despite the current budget challenges. Without the leadership and effort of our two Ben Franklin Medal winners, this would not have happened."

Senators Ward and Alloway are the 25th and 26th recipients of the Ben Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement on Behalf of Higher Education, an award that has been given by AICUP to outstanding government leaders annually since 1992.

The Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), the only statewide organization that serves exclusively the interests of private higher education within the Commonwealth, exists to complement and support the work of campus leaders. With a membership of 89 private colleges and universities within Pennsylvania, the Association provides a variety of services and programs tailored specifically to the needs and situation of

independent higher education. A list of AICUP's member colleges and universities is included on its website at www.aicup.org.

NOTE: Photo attached.

Pictured from left to right are Barbara Mistick, president of Wilson College (presenter of Sen. Alloway's award), Senator Richard Alloway, Senator Kim Ward, and Brother Norman Hipps, president of Saint Vincent College (presenter of Sen. Ward's award).

