

## Honorees Mayo Clinic, Tony Oliva, Steve Hunegs Highlight 2015 TCICA Gala

The 2015 Twin Cities International Citizen Awards Gala celebrated Steve Hunegs, Tony Oliva and the Mayo Clinic for their leadership as global participants' community innovation. The TCICA May 7<sup>th</sup> Gala at the Minneapolis Club continued a long tradition of highlighting individuals whose work has contributed significantly to international understanding, cooperation, friendship and development. The Gala also recognizes the richness of the Twin Cities' international contributions,



concern and commitments in a variety of arenas, including business and trade, research, human rights, agriculture, technology, arts, medicine, education, journalism, hospitality and humanitarian relief as represented through the efforts of the business community. Lastly, the event educates the public about the connections which exist between our local community and the world. All honorees represented these goals through their work and personal commitment to Minnesota and the international community.

**TCICA International Citizen Honoree Steve Hunegs**, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), has dedicated his career to promoting interfaith understanding and cooperation. He has developed personal as well as professional relationships with leaders of diverse religious and ethnic communities, finding areas of common interest wherever possible while modeling respectful and constructive dialogue when differences arise. Steve has made sure that the individual sacrifices made by members of the Minnesota National Guard are not overlooked, involving Guard leadership in community conversations and activities. He was honored with this long standing award because of his many achievements and contributions to local communities and international programs as a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council; for finding common ground in the middle east; promoting positive relations and cooperative initiatives involving Palestinians and Israelis, as well as between our local Jewish and Muslim communities; promoting friendship and understanding between the Minnesota Jewish and Somali communities; fostering interfaith dialogue and cooperation; and forging a more inclusive community through outreach. This, of course, is just a portion of his professional experience and impressive outreach to diverse communities and programs. He was nominated by Clifford Greene, Atty.

The 2015 **TCICA International Immigrant Achievement Honoree was Tony Oliva**. He was honored with this award because of his many achievements as a baseball player in Minnesota and contributions to local communities. He also has played a role in international programs and has shown commitment to the re-opening of relationships with Cuba and speaking out on improving relations with Cuba. He has continued to work with the Twins broadcasting games in Spanish for all baseball fans and has worked as a mentor to young baseball players. He was nominated by Sierra Leone K. Samuels.

TCICA International Corporate Awards Honoree Mayo Clinic was honored because of their many achievements and contributions to local and international communities and service to over 500,000 people from 50 states and more than 150 countries. As a diverse medical provider the Mayo Clinic has been rated with over 15 adult and 9 pediatric specialties. Mayo Clinic is a 1,132-bed general medical and surgical facility with 62,400 admissions in the most recent year reported. It performed 50,918 annual inpatient and 21,035 outpatient surgeries. It is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Its international work is well known and the Mayo Clinic has welcomed patients for more than 100 years. This, of course, is just a portion of the Clinic's professional and impressive outreach programs to the State of Minnesota. The Mayo Clinic was nominated by Lawton Baxter.

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