

King, Abdullahi, and Allina Health are 2013 TCICA Award Recipients



The 2013 Twin Cities International Citizen Award Gala once again presented deserving Minnesota citizens with long overdue recognition for their international work and service. **International Citizen Award Recipient Reatha Clark King, PhD**, is an extremely accomplished and well respected member of our community that has risen to greatness from humble roots. The daughter of sharecroppers with very little formal education, she began her educational journey in a modest one-room school house in rural Georgia. From there she excelled to dizzying heights, eventually earning her PhD in Thermochemistry from the University of Chicago. From there, her journey has taken her to distinction in not just one, but several career fields. As a chemist, she conducted important

research for the National Bureau of Standards, most notably working on a rocket fuel component of interest to NASA that received accolades from her peers. As an educator she rose to become the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at York College of New York's City University and President of Metropolitan State University in the Twin Cities, a post that she served with distinction for over a decade. As a corporate executive, she has served with distinction on the corporate boards of significant multinational corporations including Exxon Mobil, General Mills, Wells Fargo, and Minnesota Mutual Companies.

As a philanthropist, she has distinguished herself in philanthropic administration through her work as head of the General Mills Foundation whose mission under her leadership was one that strengthened communities worldwide as well as in her own backyard. She has also served on the boards of dozens of different philanthropic, civic, and educational organizations. Dr. King's work in the international arena spans all of these aspects of her career. She has traveled to over 34 countries doing corporate board work, giving lectures, participating in higher education conferences, and conducting international humanitarian work. Additionally, her work with the General Mills Foundation has helped victims of international disasters and has worked to find global hunger solutions. Throughout all of these iterations, she has received countless awards and accolades for her performance, including 14 honorary doctorates and being named one of the 100 Most Influential Minnesotans of the Century by the Minneapolis Star Tribune in 1999. Dr. King's contributions both to her local community and to the global community are abundantly clear. She has actively participated in a range of community organizations that serve to uplift the Twin Cities community, engage other communities, or promote global citizenship including but by no means limited to the Minneapolis United Way, the St. Paul Foundation, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the International Trachoma Institute and the American Red Cross. Her work with the General Mills Foundation connected her to education and healthy kid initiatives throughout communities in the United States and hunger relief strategies worldwide.

International Immigrant Achievement Award Recipients Siyad Abdullahi, MD, and wife **Khadija Ali** are health care entrepreneurs, health care consultants with expertise in cross cultural health care, immigrant and refugee health, and international health. Dr. Abdullahi is a Kenyan-born, and ethnic Somali who currently lives and works in his adopted home state of Minnesota, USA. Besides his medical training, Siyad Abdullahi is also a successful entrepreneur, and is currently the CEO, and Board Chair of several companies he founded that currently employ a staff of over 250+ full-time employees, and over 1000 independent contractors in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Dr. Abdullahi, a public health physician, also serves on numerous community non-profit boards among them the Axis Medical Center – a community clinic that serves 12,000



patients annually, and the Pan African Chamber of Commerce among others. Siyad also serves on the Board of Directors for FairVote MN and on the Advisory Board for Rasmussen College's Health Sciences and Nursing Programs. In addition, Siyad is a trainer and a public speaker on cross cultural competencies in health care, and on diversity training for corporations, non-profits, and health systems, especially those that serve Limited English Proficient (LEP) patient populations www.thelanguagebanc.com. Khadija Ali is Vice President, Operations at The Language Banc. A leading Language Services Provider in the Midwest. Ms. Ali is a leading founder and oversees the day to day operational, and customer service aspect of the business. The Language Banc started as a two person firm that currently employs about 16 full time employees, and over 1000 independent contractors. The Language has offices in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Arizona. Ms. Khadija was a pre-nursing student at St. Paul Community College before leaving to help her husband with starting and running their own business. A native of Somalia, she is fluent in Somali and has participated in the interpreter and translation experience from all sides – as the one being interpreted (when she first immigrated to the U.S.); working with third party interpreters when a Medical Assistant in community clinics; as a professional interpreter in community clinics; and now as a manager of the interpreters at The Language Banc.

International Corporate Award Recipient Allina Health's award was accepted by Brian LaCroix, President of Allina Health's EMS Division. Minnesota ranks first in the country in the availability of health care services to its citizens. Allina Health, an acknowledged leader in providing sophisticated and comprehensive health care to the citizens of Minnesota, makes a significant contribution to this statistic. Allina Health is an exemplary corporate citizen, locally, nationally, and internationally. Locally, Allina Health and its employees make a difference in people's lives by supporting our local military families; by providing acclaimed nutrition education and physical fitness training to local school districts and to local YMCA's; by partnering with "Free Bikes 4 Kidz", Big Brothers and Big Sister, to provide bikes to families and kids; by providing Minnesota's youth a with healthy life style and education on obesity through the children's Health Institute; by partnering with local Lions Clubs to provide health screening for high school students; by partnering with the United Way in a collaborative effort in early childhood education and by partnering with Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for communities.



<http://www.allinahealth.org/ahs/aboutallina.nsf/>

As an international corporate good citizen, Allina Health supports the Allina Health Global Fund for the funding of international medical missions, worldwide disaster relief and community rebuilding around the globe. Allina Health made an in-kind donation of \$3,900,000 in the form of beds, supplies and medical equipment for a Uganda sister hospital. Allina Health has made significant contribution to the City of Eldoret, Kenya in the form of emergency vehicles, medical supplies and training for Kenyan emergency and medical response personnel. Allina Health's local outreach to newly arrived immigrants for both patient care and related employment, reflect its commitment to our community. Allina Health has partnered with communities around the globe to treat the sick, improve community health, and permit the citizens of those communities to live healthier lives.

The annual TCICA gala was held May 8, 2013 at the Minneapolis Club, downtown Minneapolis. The Gala was hosted by the LTL International Leadership Institute, (www.internationalleadership.org) in conjunction with - Twin Cities Business Magazine, South African Consulate General, Fredrikson and Byron P.A., MN Best, Inc., Cutfruit Express, Lighthouse USA, and Diamond Ventures, LLC. The Republic of South Africa Freedom Day keynote address was given by **Consul General Vuyiswa Tulelo, of the Chicago Consulate.** 

2013 Twin Cities International Citizen Awards Gala at Minneapolis Club – Photo Gallery

