

## 2010 Twin Cities International Citizen Awards Gala

Hope for the City Co-Founder, Dennis Doyle, headlined the 2010 Twin Cities International Citizen Awards gala and dinner at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Wednesday, May 4, 2010, 5 – 9:00pm at 2400 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Minneapolis.

The gala honored Hubert H. Humphrey Institute Dean J. Brian Atwood, International Citizen Award, business owner Hyon T. Kim, President of MN Best Enterprise Inc., International Immigrant Achievement Award, and Best Buy Corporation, the International Corporation Award. The Best Buy award was received by Herschel Herndon, Vice President Talent Relations and Chief Diversity Officer.

Also this year the Minneapolis Fire Department, City of Minneapolis, was honored for their Sister Cities International partnership with the City of Eldoret Kenya. Receiving the special recognition award – Rekindling the Flame Award, were Minneapolis Fire Chief Alex Jackson and Assistant Chief John Fruetel. With the donation of a fire pumper truck to Eldoret Kenya, the Fire Department was integral in making sure the fire truck got shipped to Kenya Africa.

In its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the Twin Cities International Citizen Awards gala honors individuals and corporations, whose work has contributed significantly to international understanding, cooperation, friendship and development. “This annual Twin Cities event provides many people with recognition deserved for their work in developing a global community for Minnesota and the metropolitan area, said ILI President, (ret.) Judge LaJune Lange. The event also offers attendees with opportunities to connect and learn about individuals and organizations that are exploring diverse international links in the areas of business, non-profits and personal endeavors.”

As an organization that supports programs on a local and international level, Dennis Doyle’s keynote addressed South Africa’s Freedom Day and the work of Hope for the City in various regions of the world. Dennis has stayed true to this passion of helping people in need and this desire to give back. Dennis Doyle is also CEO of the Welsh Company. The Awards recognize the depth and breadth of the Twin Cities’ international connections, concerns and commitments - in business and trade, research and human rights, agriculture and technology, the arts and medicine, education and journalism, and in hospitality and humanitarian relief. The Awards were first given in 1992, hosted by the Mayor of Minneapolis. In 1996, the Mayor of St. Paul joined and in 1997 the Commissioners of Hennepin and Ramsey Counties also became hosts. The International Leadership Institute (ILI) continues hosting this annual international recognition event.

The Twin Cities International Citizen Awards serves as a catalyst for communicating among Twin Cities’ international organizations and businesses, provides an opportunity to showcase the international involvement of the Twin Cities area, and inspires Twin Citians to enter into international opportunities available in our community. Many of the attendees come in international attire representing their home country or a country they have worked in. The event is supported by AJASA Technology, South African Consulate General, International Business Resource Group, LLC, Fredrikson and Byron P.A., Women Venture, Faegre and Benson LLC and Twin Cities Business Magazine.

**International Leadership Institute**, a 501 c (3) organization, provides civic education programs and technical assistance to build bridges toward sustainable outcomes for people, businesses and government. The ILI hosts several programs in Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Norway, Ethiopia, Morocco, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, Brazil, and Minnesota. For 16 years the ILI has given professionals opportunities to use their expertise in an international setting either in Minnesota or out of the country.

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*Highlights...*

