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***Young Leadership Council Announces 2012 Role Model Class***

*New Orleans, LA (March 29, 2012):* Young Leadership Council (YLC), a non-profit civic organization that develops leadership skills through community projects, proudly announced today the 25 members selected for the 2012 Role Model class. The YLC will honor each Role Model at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual YLC Role Model Gala on August 11, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans Hotel.

Members of the 2012 Role Model class include **Gerard W. Barousse, Jr.**, Bayou District Foundation; **Janet Bean**, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans; **Dwayne Bernal**, Royal Engineering; **Michael Brown**, IBERIABANK; **Chimene Grant Connor**, Audubon Nature Institute; **Mark Costanzo**, Intralox, Inc.; **Karen B. DeSalvo, M.D.**, City of New Orleans; **Paul H. Flower**, Woodward Design+Build; **Elizabeth "Shane" French, M.D.**, Ochsner Health System; **Tara Hernandez**, JCH Development; **Thomas Kitchen**, Stewart Enterprises, Inc.; **Martha M. Landrum**, Greater New Orleans Foundation; **Kathryn LeBlanc**, Cedarwood School; **Mike McKenzie**, 34 Ways Foundation; **Darren Mire**, Mirander Investments; **Elizabeth "Betsy" Nalty**, Ogden Museum of Southern Art; **Cyndi Nguyen**, Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training (VIET) ; **John Payne**, Caesars Entertainment; **Sandy Rosenthal**, Levees.org; **Suzanne Rusovich**, Bridge House/Grace House; **John W. Sibal**, Eustis Commercial Mortgage Corporation; **Ronnie L. Stone**, The Stone Group ; **Sarah Newell Usdin**, New Schools for New Orleans; **Paul Valteau**, Valteau, Harris, Koenig & Mayer; and **Matt Wisdom**, TurboSquid.

Every year, a committee comprised of members of the YLC's Board of Directors and past Role Models select 25 members of the New Orleans community who provide outstanding examples for the young talent that the YLC represents. Honorees distinguish themselves by promoting a positive attitude and an unyielding desire to enhance the quality of life in New Orleans, striving to unite the community in collaborative efforts for its future prosperity, serving as an exemplary role model to young talent and/or making significant contributions in their specific fields of endeavor.

"For over 25 years, we have identified leaders in our community who represent the qualities that the YLC works hard to foster in our members. This year's honorees are no exception -- their talents are varied and exceptional and their commitment to our community is to be emulated." said Alyssa Wenck, 2012 YLC board president. "We are excited to honor this group of outstanding individuals at our 2012 Role Model Gala."

YLC Board Member Askala Harris is the 2012 gala chair for the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary YLC Role Mole Gala. General admission tickets are \$175 per person. Several sponsorship levels are available, starting at \$1,500. The patron party begins at 6:00 p.m. and the gala starts at 7:00 p.m.

For more information about becoming a sponsor or to purchase tickets to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary YLC Role Model Gala, please contact the Juliana Wilkins at (504) 585-1500. For more information on the YLC and to view a list of previous Role Models, please visit [www.youngleadershipcouncil.org](http://www.youngleadershipcouncil.org).

*The Young Leadership Council is a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization created to develop leadership through community projects. Through volunteer-created community projects, the YLC recruits and retains young professionals to New Orleans, creating a positive impact on the quality of life in the region. The oldest, independent YPO (young professionals' organization) in the country, the YLC has raised more than \$25 million to support community projects in and around the New Orleans area since 1986.*

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