



# Champions of Business Recap

by [Jackie Balestra](#) •

October 3, 2016

## [EL SEGUNDO, FEATURE STORIES](#)

More than 225 guests attended the **Champions of Business Celebration** hosted by the City of El Segundo and the El Segundo Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC).

The celebration, held at Vistamar School in El Segundo, recognized Richard Lundquist, Chevron, and Kite Pharma for their contributions to the economic growth and success of the city. The event on September 29th was emceed by LA County Supervisor Don Knabe and featured a keynote address from Kevin Demoff, LA Rams' COO and VP of Football Operations.

The event was also the platform to announce the City of El Segundo has surpassed its "100 @ 100" goal, an ambitious initiative to attract 100 businesses by the city's centennial anniversary in 2017. To date, 103 new businesses call El Segundo home.



Richard Lundquist, President of Continental Development Corporation received the 2016 Champion of Business Award for his dedication to the economic development efforts of El Segundo. His company has developed more than 5 million-square-feet of buildings and owns approximately 4 million square feet of commercial space in California. The company's primary asset is Continental Park located in El Segundo and Manhattan Beach, which is one of the largest mixed-use office parks in LA County. His considerable charitable contributions to organizations include Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, The California Science Center, Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute (LA Biomed) and more.

"The Champions of Business Celebration is a great opportunity to honor our fantastic business leaders and recognize their many significant accomplishments," said El Segundo Mayor Suzanne Fuentes. "All of our honorees have demonstrated exceptional leadership in business, innovation and philanthropy, and have made outstanding contributions to economic development in El Segundo."



The winners at the Champions of Business Celebration were the following:

- The Champion of Business Award recognized Richard Lundquist for setting the standard for financial performance, innovation, leadership and a strong commitment to philanthropic efforts in El Segundo and beyond.
- The Key to the City & Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed to Don Knabe for his impactful contributions to the advancement of the region through excellent leadership. Supervisor Knabe has spent much of his political career working to protect vulnerable children in LA County and established the Safe Surrender program. He has also encouraged the development of innovation to improve water quality, lower pollution, and created the Dominguez Gap Wetlands project, a recreation opportunity for residents and visitors.
- The Philanthropy Award was awarded to Chevron, for their outstanding commitment to the community through direct financial support, development of charitable programs and leadership in philanthropy. The Chevron El Segundo Refinery's community involvement program includes a significant amount of financial investments in a variety of non-profit organizations, the focus of which is on K-12 education. From 2007 – 2015, Chevron El Segundo donated over \$8 million to schools in the surrounding communities.
- The Big Idea Award was awarded to Kite Pharma for their countless innovations. The company is dedicated to research and developing new ways to cure cancer. The company focuses on the development of novel cancer immunotherapy products. Kite Pharma has grown to over 350 employees with a projected growth of 500 by year's end.



“The individuals and businesses recognized at the Champions of Business celebration are a testament to what makes this city great,” said Supervisor Don Knabe. “I am thrilled to see my dear friend Richard Lundquist recognized for his impact on economic development and job creation, as well as for his many generous philanthropic commitments. He and the other honorees make a difference not just in El Segundo, but across our entire region.”

Source: Press Release

<http://www.southbaybyjackie.com/champions-business-recap/>