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**Leading Philanthropy Expert, Teacher, Trainer, and Legacy Planner to Receive Distinguished Fithian Leadership Award**

*The International Association of Advisors in Philanthropy (AiP) to Bestow their Annual Award to Nationally Known Legacy Planner Barb Culver at its Upcoming Conference in Chicago on April 23-25.*

March 16, 2009---- One of the highest honors in the financial services industry---as well as the AiP's top honor--- will be bestowed to legacy planner, trainer, and educator Barb Culver CFP®, ChFC, CLU, AEP. The Fithian Leadership award recognizes professionals with distinguished careers in service to the philanthropic community. Honorees are chosen for their efforts to uphold the standards of excellence in ethics, service and charitable planning encouraged by the Association.

As the founder and president of the Resonate Companies in Cincinnati, Culver is a highly skilled advisor and advocate for “purposeful” legacy planning, and the one individual that the International Association of Advisors in Philanthropy believes is the most deserving of the award this year. Originally named the AiP Award, the name was changed in honor of Scott Fithian after he passed away in 2006. Scott C. Fithian is widely considered a pioneer through his innovative and ground-breaking work in the area of values-based and legacy planning. He was founder of The Legacy Companies, and his methodology continues to inspire advisors and their clients to approach their planning in a more meaningful way.

Said Culver, “Few people have had – or will ever have – an impact on the philanthropic, legal and financial services industries as Scott Fithian. While his passing still leaves a gaping hole in our hearts and professions, it is most humbling for me to receive this award. May we all join together to carry the torch he lit and has passed to us.”

A national educator and speaker on the subject of client-centered legacy planning, Culver was among the first financial planners to use the term. She instructs advisors in the financial services business about purposeful planning, and consults with non-profit organizations nationwide about building their endowments using the purposeful planning system. Said Culver, who is also a former high school teacher and “Top of the Table” (MDRT) insurance professional, “We are now teaching the systems that have helped add to our success working with not-for-profits and their donors. The more introductory level is called the Masters Level Intensive and the advanced is the

Purposeful Planning System. They are stand-alones and can actually be taken in any order desired by the participant.”

Culver likes to clearly define what purposeful planning is all about. “It’s important to understand that this planning is all about recognizing that wealth extends far beyond net worth,” she said. “It allows individuals to pass on their cherished values, beliefs and traditions – what is of most importance to them – to their children and grandchildren . The financial wealth is used to support them living fulfilling lives and making a positive difference in community.” She also emphasized that purposeful planning is not solely about minimizing tax liabilities and maximizing the amount of money an individual provides to their heirs.

AiP president, Johnne Syverson CFP®, AEP, CAP, and partner at Syverson Stregé & Company in West Des Moines, Iowa said, “This prestigious award is only granted to those who have shown outstanding leadership in the quest for helping the public become more aware of their philanthropic planning opportunities to help themselves and their communities make the world a better place for all of us. Barb Culver certainly exemplifies these traits with her efforts in educating advisors to discover and implement a holistic dimension of care in their financial planning for clients. She is most deserving of the Fithian Leadership Award.”

The award ceremony will take place on Friday, April 24, at the Sheraton Gateway Suites Hotel in Rosemont (Chicago) Illinois.

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**The award selection process:** It begins with a call for nominations which are to be sent to the AiP Executive Director by February 28 of each year, for consideration by the Board of Directors. The Board reviews each nominee and selects a winner on a majority vote.

**About the AiP:** Launched in 2005, the International Association of Advisors in Philanthropy (AiP) is a U.S.-based non-profit membership organization, and includes members in the U.S., Canada and Australia. It attracts investment advisors, financial planners, wealth managers, attorneys, non-profit consultants, and charitable development officers who are serving high net worth/ultra high net worth clients. Its primary mission is to inspire and educate financial professionals about philanthropic planning and to help them integrate this growing client-centered service into their practices. The AiP is the result of a merger with the National Association of Philanthropic Planners (NAPP) and the National Association of Family Wealth Counselors (NAFWC) in 2005. Both non-profit organizations helped pioneer a new wave of philanthropic planning that continues today through the AiP.

For more information go to: [www.advisorsinphilanthropy.org](http://www.advisorsinphilanthropy.org) or call 888.597.6575