

Diane C. Williams elected president of Building Horizons

PALM DESERT, Calif. – July 16, 2007 – Building Horizons announced that it has elected new officers for its Board of Directors. The new officers took office on July 1, 2007 and will serve for the next 12 months.

Diane C. Williams has been elected President of the non-profit organization. Williams is president of Desert Commercial Concrete and Milmark Painting, Inc., two of the valley's largest specialty contracting firms. She also currently serves as President of the Desert Contractors Association.

Brent Spates, chief executive officer of Spates Fabricators, Inc. was named Vice President. Jeffery Hayes, executive director of DACE-Rancho Housing Alliance, Inc. was named Secretary. Michael D. Harris, financial advisor for Merrill Lynch will serve as Treasurer.

Now in its 13th year, Building Horizons the Coachella Valley's hands-on jobsite training program for youth. The organization has built 29 affordable housing units across the valley and has graduated nearly 600 local young people from the program. Currently, the program is building three affordable homes in the valley.

After graduation, most students go on to work in the local building industry or continue their education in construction. Americorp, the Building Industry Association Desert Chapter, and Building Horizons supporters make scholarships available for the graduates who attend college or trade schools.

“Building Horizons is about building hope – hope for a home, hope for a job and a career, hope for a better future,” said newly-elected president Diane C. Williams.

In 2005, Building Horizons was nationally recognized by the National Association of Home Builders as the Best Workforce Plan in the United States. The program continually strives for excellence in education. From picking up their first tool to obtaining a college scholarship, students are taught to accept new responsibility, honesty, eagerness to learn, and community involvement. For information call 760-340-4748 or visit www.buildinghorizons.org.

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