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## **FREEDOMS FOUNDATION HONORS OKLAHOMA STATE PROFESSOR WITH 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LEAVEY AWARD IN PHILADELPHIA**

**VALLEY FORGE, PA** (March 17, 2011) – Oklahoma State University Professor, Dr. Michael Morris was one of thirteen educators from throughout the United States who was presented with the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Dr. Morris received \$7,500 for his efforts at a gala awards banquet at the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia on March 19, 2011.

The teachers were honored for inspiring the next generation of business leaders through innovative education programs. Morris, Head of the School of Entrepreneurship, received this honor for the "OSU Entrepreneurship Program."

The OSU Entrepreneurship Program was created with the purpose to touch every student on the campus of Oklahoma State University. The initiative has included the launch of a 35 course entrepreneurship curriculum, a major, a minor, master's and Ph.D. in entrepreneurship and the creation of a portfolio of cross-disciplinary initiatives such as entrepreneurship and the arts, entrepreneurship and psychology, entrepreneurship and health sciences and entrepreneurship and geology among others. A central theme is experiential learning so the program is coupled with an innovative mix of community engagement initiatives including Disabled Veterans Entrepreneurship Program, the Women Entrepreneurs INSPRIE Symposium and the Cowboy Bootcamp for Entrepreneurs.

"The Leavey Awards is one of the most prestigious honors for teachers who create and implement programs that teach the free enterprise system to the next generation," said Freedoms Foundation President, Michael Di Yeso. "The Freedoms Foundation is proud to host this important tribute and to celebrate our 30 plus year partnership with the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation."

Over thirty years of honoring excellence in education and the concept that Free Enterprise is only possible in a free society. This lasting legacy was created through an endowment by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation of Los Angeles and administered by the Freedoms Foundation since its conception. Each winning program receives a \$7,500 cash award. Annually up to 20 programs can be recognized. Since its inception in 1977, the Leavey Awards for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education has honored more than 500 teachers and awarded over \$3 million in award money.

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge was founded in 1949 to help Americans preserve the ideals and principles of the United States through educational and award programs for men, women and children from every community in America. Freedoms Foundation volunteer chapters are located in 31 cities throughout the country. For more information on the Leavey Awards and Freedoms Foundation visit the Foundation web site at [www.freedomsfoundation.org](http://www.freedomsfoundation.org) or call 610-933-8825 ext. 234.

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