

# ASU Biodesign Institute wins environment award

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

The Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University Building B won top honors in Valley Forward's 27th annual Environmental Excellence Awards program.

The President's Award was announced Saturday at Valley Forward's Environmental Excellence Awards gala. More than 750 community leaders attended the event at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale.

Valley Forward and SRP recognized 46 projects submitted by Valley businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations. In addition to the President's Award, 18 first-place Crescordia awards and 28 awards of merit were presented.

Building B opened in 2006 and has also been cited by the U.S. Green Building Council for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design." Its companion facility, Building A, opened in 2004 and received LEED gold certification. The two buildings were constructed separately but are connected on

all levels by glass walkways.

"In presenting our awards program for nearly three decades, we're definitely seeing a trend with more LEED-certified buildings of all types throughout the Valley, as well as around the country," said Diane Brossart, president of Valley Forward.

"Green building and environmental consciousness in general has become mainstream. The ASU project takes us to a new level - it demonstrates that doing what's right for the environment also makes economic sense," she added.

In addition to the President's Award (best of show), the ASU Biodesign Institute, Building B also won a first-place Crescordia Award in the Buildings and Structures/Large Scale and Community Development category.

The Biodesign Institute research offices are oriented to provide views of a Sonoran Desert garden, which is landscaped with drought-resistant native plants and serves as a natural storm management system. In addition, a 5,000-gallon

underground tank captures a full day's supply of condensate from the building's cooling system and supplies the landscape irrigation system.

The environmental awards have become particularly competitive among Valley municipalities. This year, Phoenix is associated with nine projects that won awards. Others include Tempe and Scottsdale, five each; Maricopa County, four; Chandler and Peoria, two apiece; and one each for Avondale, Goodyear, Guadalupe, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Superior. The state of Arizona had three winners.

Valley Forward received nearly 100 entries in this year's competition. Categories included buildings and structures, site development and landscape, livable communities, open space and connectivity, art in public places, environmental technologies, environmental education/communication and environmental stewardship.

For a complete list of winners, go to [www.valleyforward.org/](http://www.valleyforward.org/).

