

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Santa Barbara, CA**

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**By Natalie Cole for SYNERGY Media**

## **Michael Holliday FAIA receives 2016 Distinguished Leader Award**

Michael Holliday FAIA, an award winning local architect, entrepreneur and business leader received the 2016 Distinguished Leader Award from Leadership Santa Barbara County and spoke to the graduating class at a recent ceremony held in Montecito, CA. Mr Holliday has lived and practiced architecture in the Santa Barbara region for over 25 years and was recognized as a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) in 2012 joining less than 2% of architects nationwide with that professional designation.

In addition to being an architect, Mr. Holliday also serves as the Founder and Director of **SYNERGY Business & Technology Center** where he and his wife Beverly host over 25 different startup businesses and entrepreneurs in a downtown beach oriented co-working environment in Santa Barbara.

Mr. Holliday has served as President of the American Institute of Architects Santa Barbara Chapter, Chairman of the US Green Building Council SB Region, Chairman of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the UCSB Economic Forecast Project Board, the SB County Economic Vitality Team Board, the MIT Enterprise Forum Board and the Kids Helping Kids Board based out of San Marcos High School. Mr Holliday was a graduate of Leadership Santa Barbara County in 1992.

Other leaders recognized at the graduation event were 2016 Class Valedictorian Scott Ericson, who currently serves as the Membership Director for the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce and Santa Barbara City Council Member Jason Dominguez also a LSBC alumni. Curriculum Chair Jason Toon acknowledged each of the graduates with a formal certificate including Lauren Beattie, Brandon Beaudette, Jessica Cadiente, Julio Carrillo, Steve Cerialle, Norma Cervantes, Julie DeAngelis, Sam Dickinson, Scott Ericson, Dori Friesen, Malcom Hamilton, Mike Hamilton, Caleb Landon, Anthony Paggett, Dominique Samario, Will Stonecipher, Mary Thompson, Olesya Thyne, Kelsey Walden and Joshua Whitefield.

**Leadership Santa Barbara County is an issue-oriented leadership development program limited each year to 30 diverse individuals who are committed to civic leadership. To find out more visit [www.leadsb.org](http://www.leadsb.org).**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR RESOURCES

CONTACT: Michael Holliday FAIA Phone 805-452-9542, Email: [michael@dmhaa.com](mailto:michael@dmhaa.com)

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