

Nonprofit Executive of the Year

Lincoln Literacy Council director receives award at ANPE luncheon

PHOTO BY DENNIS BUCKLEY

Clayton Naff, executive director of the Lincoln Literacy Council, received the Nonprofit Executive of the Year award from the Association of Nonprofit Executives (ANPE) during an award luncheon Feb. 24 at the downtown Embassy Suites.

Naff has been Lincoln Literacy Council's executive director since 2005. In announcing the award, ANPE cited Naff for his leadership abilities during the organization's extensive strategic planning and for leading the agency through trying economic times.

Naff said he was astonished and humbled, particularly in view of the excellence of the field of nominees from local nonprofit organizations. Among the award fi-

nalists were Bill Michener of The Lighthouse, Marien Ruiz of El Centro de las Americas, and Barbara Zach of Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra.

Naff was a professional journalist and writer before joining LLC.

U.S. Bank, the luncheon sponsor, presented a \$500 award to Naff and \$500 to the Lincoln Literacy Council.

The ANPE was organized in 1992 and has presented an Executive of the Year award annually since 1995.

Among those in attendance were the past three years' award recipients: Phyllis Ericson, Nebraska Community Blood Bank, 2009; Susanne Blue, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, 2008; and

Bob Downey, Capital Humane Society, 2007.

Last year, Naff received a Mentor award from the YWCA of Lincoln.

Lincoln Literacy Council is a United Way organization based in Lincoln. Established in 1972, LLC provides English language and literacy instruction to more than 1,000 adults and families living in Lancaster County. Many are refugees and immigrants from around the world.

LLC's mission is to assist people of all cultures and strengthen our community by teaching English language and literacy skills. It does this by recruiting, training and deploying more than 200 community volunteers.



Clayton Naff (second from right), executive director of the Lincoln Literacy Council and the 2010 recipient of the Nonprofit Executive of the Year award, is pictured with (from left) Dean Haišt, president of the Association of Nonprofit Executives; Julene Shoen, business banking officer for award sponsor U.S. Bank; and Pastor Tom Barber, executive director of the People's City Mission and keynote speaker for the Feb. 24 luncheon.