

# American Humanics Inc. officials honor Ashcraft

By Amy Cox O'Hara

Robert Ashcraft, director of the ASU Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation and professor of nonprofit studies in the School of Community Resources and Development, was among 60 leaders honored at the 60th anniversary celebration of American Humanics Inc. (AH) in Kansas City, Mo., in January.

The honorees were recognized for making significant contributions to the leadership, growth and development of AH over the 60 years since its inception. Among the 60 honorees were founding visionary leaders such as Jack Armstrong, Robert Long, George Pardee and Ashcraft, along with national organizations and foundations such as the United Way of America, Boy Scouts of America, YMCA of the USA and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

“What a privilege it has been to lead a



Robert Ashcraft

body of work that was incubated and nurtured at ASU and that has earned respect across the national AH network,” Ashcraft said in response to learning about this national recognition. “Members of Phoenix Rotary Club 100 are to be acknowledged, because they planted the seed those many years ago by providing the resources necessary to assure success of the American Humanics program at ASU.”

This recognition paid tribute to Ashcraft’s 25 years of dedication to AH and service as the executive director of the ASU AH program. His passion and dedication to the development of nonprofit and philanthropic studies has made ASU one of the country’s leading universities in the field.

Steve Davidson, chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale and AH alumnus, was one of eight students in the program when Ashcraft first took the position as executive director.

“What Robert has done over the years really puts me in awe,” Davidson said. “He’s turned the ASU program really into a dynasty. There were only 15 campuses at the time, and now there are more than 60.

He’s done a phenomenal job in building the programs and preparing the students for successful careers in the nonprofit sector.”

In many ways, Ashcraft wrote the early history of American humanics by developing many of the handbooks and materials used by students throughout the nation. Numerous campus programs have used the ASU model for preparing the next generation of leaders for working with the nonprofit organizations in their communities.

“American humanics is stronger today because of the advice, leadership, and steady support from Dr. Robert Ashcraft,” says Kala M. Stroup, president of American Humanics Inc. “The respect that the sector and the foundations have for him is hard to measure, but we all know that when universities, foundations, faculty, and nonprofit leaders ask about the strongest and most comprehensive programs in the country, Arizona State University is always mentioned.”

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