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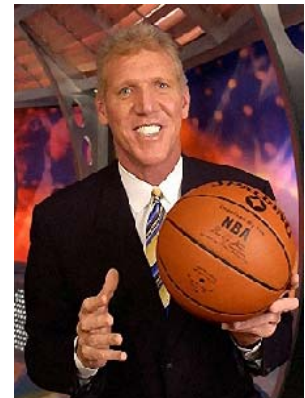
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**BASKETBALL GREAT BILL WALTON TO HEADLINE
INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL
DINNER EVENT**

Inland Empire, CA (January 23, 2007) - The Inland Empire Economic Partnership will hold its 21st Annual Dinner on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at the Riverside Convention Center. Over 300 business leaders from the Inland Empire and Southern California region are expected to attend the semi-formal event. Registration can be completed on-line at www.ieepevents.org.



A basketball superstar and member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, Bill Walton made sports history playing for UCLA when he led the team to two NCAA championships and a record 88-game winning streak. He played on NBA championship teams – the Portland Trail Blazers and the Boston Celtics – and has received innumerable awards, including citations for his humanitarian and leadership contributors. In his speech titled “Nothing but Net,” Bill Walton condenses the lessons of a brilliant career in sports: focusing on teamwork, overcoming adversity, hard work, the fundamentals and a positive attitude - and demonstrates how these characteristics create personal success in business.

The Inland Empire Economic Partnership's 2006 Executive Committee will present four Community Awards at the event to people who have been consistently supportive of the IEEP's economic development efforts over the years. The "Community Partner Award" recipient is Linda Daniels, Redevelopment Director, City of Rancho Cucamonga; the "Educator of the Year Award" recipient is Dr. Al Karnig, President, California State University, San Bernardino; the "Chairman's Award" recipient is Mayor Ron Loveridge, City of Riverside; and the "President's Award" recipient is Dr. John Husing.

The election of IEEP's 2007 Board of Directors will be conducted at the event, and the 2007 Officers will be announced. Those officers are: Chairman Larry Sharp, President of Arrowhead Credit Union; 1st Vice Chairman, Tony Mize, President of Workforce Homebuilders LLC; 2nd Vice Chairman, Mark Hawkins, President of Altura Credit Union; Treasurer, Ron Stephany, Vice President for University Relations at the University of Redlands; and Secretary, Noel Massie, Vice President of United Parcel Service (UPS). The outgoing 2006 Chairman, Buck Long, President of Harpure Enterprises, Inc., will be honored for his dedication and leadership over the past year.

Sponsors for this year's event include: UPS, KB Home, The Gas Company, Majestic Realty Co., California Statewide CDC, The Press-Enterprise, The Business Press, Arrowhead Credit Union, Altura Credit Union, City of Riverside, RSM McGladrey, Southern California Edison, Southwest Community Bank, University of LaVerne, Workforce Homebuilders LLC, KSPA Radio AM1510, KTIE Radio, and Southwest Airlines.

About IEEP

Inland Empire Economic Partnership is a not-for-profit economic development organization serving the two-county region. In addition to its mission to enhance business investment and employment in the Inland Empire, IEEP provides technical assistance to entrepreneurs through its Small Business Development Center and operates the Inland Empire Film Commission.

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