



NEWS RELEASE

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DAVENPORT HONORING STEVE VAN ANDEL AND DOUG DEVOS AT ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS DINNER

Sugar Ray Leonard is guest speaker for Excellence in Business Gala

For the first time in the event's 13-year history, Davenport University will present the Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business (EIB) Award to two area business leaders. The fundraising gala, to be held at DeVos Place on Friday, May 7, will honor Amway Chairman Steve Van Andel and Amway President Doug DeVos. The keynote speaker will be Olympic athlete and world-champion boxer, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Van Andel and DeVos jointly oversee the daily operations of Amway, an \$8.2 billion global business founded by their fathers in 1959. Together they have helped Amway grow into one of the world's largest and most successful international companies. They expanded Amway's global reach with more than 80 percent of the company's revenue generated outside the United States. Today Amway has 13,000-plus employees and more than 3 million affiliated distributors worldwide who are fully reflective of their local cultures. Amway recently celebrated 50 years of outstanding business success, a testament to Van Andel's and DeVos's leadership in taking the company to new heights while staying true to their fathers' founding principles.

Van Andel and DeVos also are active members of the West Michigan community, serving on various local boards and committees, in addition to volunteering on boards of national organizations. The Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies professional success and commitment to community service and support.

The keynote speaker at this year's Excellence in Business gala is former world-champion boxer Sugar Ray Leonard, a legendary sports icon whose very name epitomizes boxing. His sincere, charismatic personality coupled with his ring experience led to a successful career as a television broadcaster for NBC, ABC, HBO and ESPN. His speech, titled "POWER" (Prepare, Overcome, and Win Every Round), is consistently booked with major Fortune 500 companies in the United States and abroad.

"This evening is a celebration of business success and community service and is so important in supporting our students," said university President Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D. "Davenport is grateful for the support of our generous contributors and the strength of a business community that helps our students move from success in the classroom to successful careers."

The Excellence in Business Dinner was established in 1998 in honor of alumnus Peter C. Cook. Proceeds from the event benefit Davenport University Foundation scholarships. Table reservations and purchase of individual tickets can be made by calling Tammy Dykema at 616-233-3412 or by visiting www.davenport.edu/EIB.

About Davenport University

Davenport University – the only West Michigan-based private university specializing in business, technology and health professions – serves an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students at its W. A. Lettinga Campus in Grand Rapids, at campuses throughout Michigan and online. Davenport focuses on innovative, practical and affordable education and offers graduate and undergraduate programs.