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Orindan wins prestigious lifetime professional achievement award

Submitted by Thomas Black



Chris Laszcz-Davis Photo provided

Chris Laszcz-Davis, a longtime resident of Orinda, has won the highest professional honor in management and operations regarding environment, health and safety (EHS). The citation is known formally as the ABIH Lynn O'Donnell Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Board for EHS Credentialing. (O'Donnell is a pioneering executive director of the profession's credentialing board.)

Laszcz-Davis is president of her own consulting firm, The Environmental Quality Organization, LLC, founded in 2004.

Her career spans more than three decades. Fresh out of graduate school with a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Minnesota, she went to work for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor to the U.S. Department of Energy), first in Washington, DC., then on the west coast as a regional manager, and later at UC Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. She subsequently worked at Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical as corporate vice president of environmental affairs, health, safety, product stewardship and operational integrity.

Additionally, both in industry and in government she has experience in risk management, strategic planning, and corporate acquisitions and divestitures.

Laszcz-Davis has garnered numerous other professional accolades. In 2011-12 she was recognized by a leading industry publication, Industrial Safety & Hygiene News, as one of the "101 most influential EH&S leaders in the U.S." In 2017 the California state legislature passed a resolution (#967) hailing her professional achievements and civic leadership.

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Her contributions locally are no less impressive. She currently is on the board of the Orinda Association and is chair of the tri-community Lamorinda Presents. In 2018-19 she served as president of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, one of some 35,000 Rotary clubs worldwide.

Her involvement with the American Association of University Women (AAUW)-OML Branch has generated successful Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) STEM Conferences, held at Saint Mary's College, for middle-school girls. She also helped to coordinate a series of virtual STEM-related webinars for high-school girls.

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