



*We Mean Business for American Indians!*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT IS  
PROUD TO ANNOUNCE RAYTHEON AS DINNER CHAIR OF  
14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FIRST AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARDS (FALA 2008)**

Phoenix, AZ – The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) and Raytheon Company are proud to present the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual First American Leadership Awards Banquet (FALA 2008). John D. Harris, II, Vice President Contracts and Supply Chain, Raytheon, will serve as Dinner Chair of the event. The awards banquet will be held on Friday, June 13, 2008, at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Casino located on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (Scottsdale, AZ). FALA 2008 is an evening of tribute to diversity, tradition, and achievement, to honor those leaders' accomplishments and contributions to American Indians and those who support American Indian business development endeavors. New at FALA 2008, the National Center will hold a NCAIED Client "Procurement Capability Briefing". The Capability Briefings will be held prior to the FALA reception and will consist of presentations from American Indian businesses to corporate and tribal sponsors. The banquet will open with a "Meet the Artist" networking reception at 5:30 PM followed by dinner, awards, and entertainment at 7:00 PM. The theme of FALA 2008 is: "Celebrating Leaders, Honoring Tradition".

Awards presented at FALA include: the First American Tribal Leadership Award, the First American Entrepreneurship Award, the First American Corporate Leadership Award, and the First American Public Advocate Award. The FALA 2008 Awards banquet benefits the American Indian Fellowship in Business Student Scholarship Program. Proceeds also support the mission of the National Center which is to develop the American Indian private sector.

Past attendees of FALA include: American Indian Tribal Leaders and Community members; Local Dignitaries; National Center Clients (Large and Small American Indian-Owned Businesses); Scholarship Awardees and their families; National Center Board of Directors, Management, and Staff; American Indian Chamber of Commerce; business media; and other American Indian business development advocates and organizations.

The National Center provides business assistance at no cost, to organizations, tribes and individuals in order to foster American Indian participation in our economic system and increased economic progress through successful business ownership. Founded in 1969, The National Center has its headquarters in Mesa, Arizona with eleven offices located nationwide. The National Center is the only national non-profit organization solely dedicated to developing American Indian economic self-sufficiency through business ownership. The National Center is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. For more information on FALA 2008, Sponsorship Opportunities, or The National Center, please call (800) 462-2433 ext 243, or visit the NCAIED web site at [www.ncaied.org](http://www.ncaied.org)