

PRESS RELEASE



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IIABAZ Wins 2016 Excellence in Insurance Education Award

Arizona state association's Education Department awarded the highest honor from Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America for its outstanding commitment to education programs.

PHOENIX, Arizona, September 16, 2016—The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of Arizona's (IIABAZ) education department has received honors for their work in insurance education. IIABAZ was selected for the 2016 Excellence in Insurance Education (EIE) Diamond Award by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (or the Big "I"). The ceremony was held in Chicago, Illinois on September 8, 2016. Joni Fairbrother from the IIABAZ staff was in attendance at the ceremony to receive the award.

"The Big 'I' Excellence in Insurance Education awards recognize the outstanding contributions by Big 'I' state associations through extraordinary efforts to promote quality insurance education," said Sue Knobloch, past Chair of the Big "I" Virtual University committee and Executive Director of Association of Risk Managers Northwest in Seattle, Washington. "Through a variety of traditional and cutting edge educational programs, recipients of this award have proven their dedication, passion and commitment to education."

The EIE awards celebrate and recognize state associations and staff who have made significant contributions to education for their members and the industry in the key area of class offerings, continuing education (CE), professionalism, designation offerings, industry collaboration, planning goals, marketing, resources and more.

The IIABAZ was considered as they offer a wide array of outstanding seminars, many of which are as free as possible for their membership. A primary reason they earned the Diamond Level distinction was for their partnership with the Arizona Diamondbacks major league baseball team, where they offer two hours of premium insurance topics before select baseball games inside of Chase Field. For two years running, the IIABAZ has offered courses such as Business Auto Policy endorsements, Directors & Officers coverage, Commercial General Liability coverages, Homeowners coverages and endorsements, Ethics in Insurance, Contractual Liability versus Additional Insureds, and a look at Personal Auto endorsements which could mean the difference between claims being paid or denied.

IIABAZ Executive Vice President Lanny Hair recently said, "This is a truly a great honor and is reflective of the hard work of Ray Garcia, or Education Coordinator, as well as our faculty and staff. We treat each class as a marketing tool and an opportunity to remind our members that we are here to serve them—not just hold classes for a fee."

Big "I" Vice President of Agent Development, Education and Research, Madelyn Flanagan said, "The Big 'I' greatly appreciates the hard work by our state associations to develop, promote and implement so many outstanding professional education programs. These continuing education programs are critical to our independent agents, brokers and the thousands of customers they serve."

Founded in 1936, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Arizona (IIABAZ or the Arizona Big "I") is one of Arizona's oldest and largest associations of independent insurance agents and brokers, representing a network of thousand of agents, brokers, and their employees statewide. Its members are business that offer customers a choice of policies from a variety of insurance companies. Independent agents and brokers offer all lines of insurance—property, casualty, life and health—as well as employee benefit plans and retirement products. Web address: www.iibaz.com.