



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 14, 2018**

## **Mike Ioakimedes Receives Solano Community College’s Distinguished Alumni Award at Annual Benefit Gala**

*Annual award recognizes alumni leaders making a positive impact in the community*

**Solano County, CA** – Last Saturday, Solano Community College (SCC) presented its 2018 class of Distinguished Alumni which included Mike Ioakimedes, Business Development Manager for the Solano County Fair Association. Ioakimedes was one of seven recipients of this year’s award which was bestowed at SCC’s Annual Benefit Gala on Saturday, September 8.

Now in its fifth year, the Distinguished Alumni program was established in 2014 to recognize community leaders in all fields of work who have attended Solano Community College. “SCC alumni have gone on to achieve great things,” stated Curt Johnston, Executive Director of the SCC Educational Foundation. “Our award recipients represent a broad range of careers, including individuals with public service history, and we want to highlight the positive impact of SCC alumni in our community.”

“It is quite an honor to be given this award,” commented Ioakimedes. “Solano County has a lot to be proud of and it’s great to see Solano Community College be a leader in recognizing that. The more we do to elevate the reputation of our communities and celebrate our successes, the more opportunities we can create for investment in the future of our citizens, businesses and non-profits. The Distinguished Alumni program is one of the ways Solano County gets to ‘show off’ our leaders and accomplishments and I am humbled to be included in this year’s class of awardees.”

Ioakimedes is a lifelong Solano County resident; attending Vallejo schools from kindergarten through graduation from St. Patrick’s High School, going on to receive his AA degree from Solano Community College and his BA from St. Mary’s College. He originally planned on attending law school but was bit by the entrepreneurial bug and opened his own business at



the age of 24. That business evolved into Mike & Gayle’s Neighborhood Café which Ioakimedes and his wife Gayle operated for over 30 years.

Ioakimedes has been active in local government, serving on various City of Benicia boards and commissions including the Benicia’s City Council, Planning Commission, and Economic Development Board. At the community level, Ioakimedes is a 30-year plus member of Benicia’s Chamber of Commerce, has served on the board of the Benicia Historical Society, and has been very active in the Benicia Main Street Program serving as President multiple times. At the regional level, Ioakimedes has served on the boards of the Solano Transportation Authority, Solano Economic Development Corporation, and was a founding board member of SolTrans. Currently, Ioakimedes serves on the board of Visit Vallejo, the advisory board for Sustainable Solano, and is treasurer and a member of the Parish Council for Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Vallejo.

Established in 1949 to produce the annual County Fair, the Solano County Fair Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that is governed by a Board of Directors which is appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors. The Solano County Fair Association has been providing educational, cultural, artistic, commercial and recreational programs to the residents of Solano County for over 70 years. The mission of the Solano County Fair Association is “to ensure a positive experience for the public by providing a year-round multi-purpose venue that showcases and celebrates the wide variety of resources and activities available to our diverse community.”

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