

For Immediate Release

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**THE BAY AREA HOUSTON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WILL
PRESENT THEIR PRESTIGIOUS 2008 QUASAR AWARD FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXCELLENCE TO WILLIAM A.
STAPLES ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2008**

BAY AREA HOUSTON, Texas (January 4, 2008) The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership will present their prestigious 2008 Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence to University of Houston-Clear Lake President William A. Staples on Friday, January 18, 2008 at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center in League City at 6:30 p.m.

The Quasar Award is presented annually to an outstanding individual who contributed greatly to economic wealth and diversity of the Bay Area Houston region. Staples was unanimously selected for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the economic well being and vitality of the greater Bay Area Houston communities.

Some of Staples' career highlights include receiving the 2003 NASA Public Service Medal for exceptional contributions to the mission of NASA, serving as the chairman of the board for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership in 2003 and 2004, receiving the Texas Art Education Association's 2004 Governmental Award for Meritorious Service in the Arts, and being selected as the 2005 E. A. Smith YMCA Community of Stars Gala honoree.

Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership said, "To succeed in today's competitive, global marketplace, we must have a trained workforce that can perform at the highest level. The communities that do, will win...the others will fall short. Dr. Staples, as leader of the accomplished UH-Clear Lake team, makes sure that our workforce can compete. Quasars are the most luminous objects in the known universe. We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Staples as our luminary to receive this year's award."

Mitchell, who previously served as the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Executive director of aerospace marketing and the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program, officially became President on January 1, 2008.

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership provides the leadership necessary to stimulate economic development and employment throughout the region. For more information on the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, please call 281-486-5535 or visit www.bayareahouston.com.

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