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Windermere's Garland and Rogers Commit to Leadership Coachella Valley

PALM SPRINGS, CA – October 26, 2013 – Windermere Real Estate Southern California is pleased to recognize two of its Realtors® who have committed to upping their already notable leadership roles in the industry by enrolling in the 2014 class of the Leadership Coachella Valley program. Bert Garland and Sharon Rogers joined this year's Leadership class which began its monthly meetings in September.

Leadership Coachella Valley is a year-long program designed to identify, motivate and develop future community leaders. Participants meet with community leaders in both forum and group discussion settings. The Leadership program consists of monthly day-long seminars, tours of local facilities and hands-on work with local organizations. The seminar series covers broad issues that impact the Coachella Valley from government to agriculture to energy to transportation.

Associate Broker Bert Garland, who works from Windermere's Desert Commercial office located at 44-530 San Pablo Ave, Suite 101 in Palm Desert, comes to the Leadership class with an extensive record of commitment and service to the communities in which he sells. Since 2002, Bert has served as an eight-year Member and two-year Chair of the Board of Directors at the Desert Academy Christian School. Bert also serves as a Board member of the Southern California Adventist Education Board as well as a Board member and Construction Chairman for Gilda's Club Desert Cities chapter.

Bert Garland's experience as an agent, broker and developer in commercial real estate covers all its varied aspects, from zoning, rezoning and entitlements through finished lot construction. Bert also enjoyed an early career as an airline pilot and instructor as well as 10 years of conservation development and consulting on endangered species, wetland protection and bank mitigation. "I am excited to be a member of this year's Leadership Coachella Valley class. After speaking to a number of previous graduates, it became apparent that the classes offer a true opportunity to see a macroscopic view of the Valley and the number of economic and social drivers that make the desert a truly unique and resource-rich place to build and develop future businesses," shared Bert.

Sharon Rogers, of Windermere's Palm Desert San Pablo office, has been active in local real estate industry leadership for a number of years. In the ten years that have passed since Sharon became a member of the California Desert Association of Realtors® (CDAR), she has served on the Local Government Relations Committee, seven years on the Professional Standards Committee, and two years as a CDAR Director. Sharon is completing her 2013 year as CDAR's President-Elect for 2013 and will be inducted in



January as the 2014 President. In addition to her work in the industry, Sharon is actively involved throughout her community and volunteers her time to a number of local organizations, including Food, Friends and Fellowship Outreach, Father's Heart Ranch, as well as her church, Victory Christian Center.

Sharon's real estate experience in the Coachella Valley includes residential and income property acquisition as well as property leasing and management. "I believe the opportunity to learn about the complexities of where local industries intersect is important to understanding how we can work across industries to create paths for the growth and development of all our communities," said Sharon. "I also hope to take away from the Leadership Coachella Valley program some new models of teambuilding and leadership training that I can use to encourage and promote even greater member participation at CDAR during my term as President."

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