

# 2014 John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* Award

## Cindi Bigelow Awardee



Cindi Bigelow, third generation President and CEO of Bigelow Tea accepted the 2014 John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award on May 7th during SEE's 8th Annual Character Celebration at Amarantes Sea Cliff in New Haven. In the picture (left) Mrs. Bigelow is receiving her award from Peter Donovan (left), the Chairman of SEE's Trustee Board and Mickey Herbert (2014 Award winner) who spoke eloquently in Cindi's introduction. Cindi is recognized for her commitment to ethical business

practice and to community service. In accepting her award, Cindi recognized and honored each of SEE's Laws of Life essayists and wove topics of the students' Laws of Life essay into her own keynote.

Before assuming the role of President and CEO of Bigelow Tea in 2005, Cindi Bigelow spent 20 years in all areas of the company her grandmother founded in 1945. Headquartered in Fairfield, Conn., Bigelow Tea is the national market leader of specialty teas and maker of "Constant Comment"® tea. The company remains a family-owned business and employs 330 people across three manufacturing facilities, producing over 1.6 billion tea bags annually.



Community minded, Cindi initiated the Annual Bigelow Tea Community Challenge in 1987 that has donated nearly \$1 million to local charities since inception and Bigelow's Tea for the Troops Project that donates tea to US service men and women. She spearheaded the creation of Sandcastle Playground in 1996, a landmark wooden village playground in Fairfield. Annually recurring volunteer projects include Habitat for Humanity, Adopt-a-Home through the Kennedy Center and Appalachian projects.

A passionate advocate for education, Cindi makes frequent classroom appearances speaking to students about business, business ethics and career development and has been the keynote speaker at the Greenbrier Women in Leadership Conference, Network of Executive Women's Conference, Powerful Women in Business Conference, 2013 Fairfield University Awards Dinner, Boston College Alumni Career Day and UConn's Connecticut Celebrates Women Entrepreneurs. She served on Bridgeport and Fairfield Boards of Directors, Boston College Board of Alumni, Bridgeport Regional Council, Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Committee and is the "Champion" for Connecticut's first Justice Center that will provide one-stop crisis management services to victims of domestic violence.



Cindi holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College, MBA from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management and Honorary Doctorate from the University of New Haven.

Numerous awards include Mass Mutual and UCONN Family Business of the Year, Ernst & Young Socially Responsible Entrepreneur of the Year, Girl Scouts' Woman of Distinction, 2010 Notable Women in Business Award, 2012 Woman of Influence in the Food Industry and 2013 WEDC Entrepreneurial Excellence. The Cardinal Shehan Center, Operation Hope, Beardsley Park Zoo's Red Ribbon Ball have honored her for her community service. Channel 12 News featured her as "Hometown Hero."

Cindi's Favorite pastimes include being with her children, skiing, tennis, yoga and drinking lots of tea.