

Larry L. Bingaman

2019 John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* Awardee

Larry Bingaman is president and chief executive officer of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA), an innovative water utility that sustains life, strengthens the communities it serves and protects natural resources for future generations.

Mr. Bingaman was nominated for the 2019 John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award for his commitment to ethics in his personal and professional life, and the specific support and leadership he has provided to the Conscious Capitalism movement and the founding of its Connecticut Chapter. He received SEE's award on May 1st during the 13th Annual Character Celebration.

Since taking the helm at the RWA in 2009, Mr. Bingaman has led the nonprofit corporation through many financial and operational successes, including the development of the company's first integrated five-year strategic plan, the achievement of the highest bond rating in the RWA's history and the establishment of new operating and productivity initiatives that have saved customers millions of dollars annually.

Larry leads with a keen focus on sustainable and conscious business practices and is deeply involved in the New Haven community. He is a past chair for the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Board and serves on the President's Executive Council for Gateway Community College, as well as the Business Advisory Council at Southern Connecticut State University.



Larry Bingaman is the founder and Chair of the Connecticut Chapter of Conscious Capitalism.

Larry is a 2016 inductee to Gateway Community College's Hall of Fame and received the college's Corporate Award for his commitment, dedication and support of higher education and social change. He is also a 2017 inductee to Junior Achievement's New Haven Business Hall of Fame for his contributions to the prosperity of the region through his leadership in business and to the community. Larry and his wife Martie are 2017 Alexis de Tocqueville Society award recipients for their personal leadership, contributions and long-time commitment to United Way and the community at large. He is also a founding partner for New Haven's Social Venture Partners and founder and board chair of the Connecticut Chapter of Conscious Capitalism.

Larry holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from California State University at Long Beach and an executive MBA from the University of New Haven. An honorary Associate's

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degree was conferred upon him at Gateway Community College's 26th Commencement Ceremony in 2018. Larry is also a 2019 inductee into the University of New Haven's Honor Society for Experiential Education for his conscious leadership. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Leadership and Change from Antioch University.

During the May 1st Character Celebration, John Ciulla, President and CEO of Webster Bank and SEE's 2018 *Ethics in Action*

awardee introduced Larry prior to presenting him his award with Peter M. Donovan, Chairman of SEE. Mr. Ciulla wove testimonies of Larry's colleagues into his introduction. He quoted Anthony DiSalvo, RWA board chair to say, "At the Regional Water Authority, we consider Larry to be the Chief Culture Officer of the organization. He creates the climate and culture that requires that all management be responsible and accountable. It is typical of Larry to say in the middle of a discussion that involves a difficult strategic decision, and we are tempted to move toward an expedient decision: "Is that a correct position. Is it the right thing for us to do?"

An anecdote from Tom Clifford, the chair of the RWA's Representative Policy Board noted; "In 2008 the RWA acquired the Birmingham Utility Company (BUI). The merger created an instant conflict. BUI consumers were paying significantly higher water rates than RWA towns. Larry, having just become CEO, immediately recognized this disparity. His answer: freeze the rates for BUI towns, phasing in rate increases, until all municipalities reached parity. Within five years, all residential consumers were equalized. So reflective of Larry's ethical leadership, he saw an unfair rate structure and moved quickly to correct it. This epitomizes the essence of authentic ethical leadership in action."

Colleen McGuire, CEO of Silver Fern Healthcare, offered the following testimony: "Larry's commitment to ethical business and leadership practices is evident every day in his tireless pursuit to share the four pillars concepts of Conscious Capitalism. I find that Bing lives and breathes purpose and is upright, courteous, caring, and acts as an excellent social citizen in his daily practices."

In addition, Ellen Durnin, Dean of the School of Business at Southern Connecticut State University provided the following observation: "Larry has emerged as a national leader in the field of Conscious Capitalism, and talks about organizations having a higher purpose than just profits. Larry works tirelessly in promoting this vision to area organizations, and has provided resources for us at SCSU to create the first student chapter of Conscious Capitalism in CT."

SEE was honored to award Mr. Bingaman with the 2019 John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award. With his own keynote, Mr. Bingaman provided very thoughtful remarks that connected with the students and adults. His inclusion of student essay themes and authenticity in supporting the values he learned from his father created a very effective challenge to youth and adults.

The 13th annual Character Celebration was graciously led by Jocelyn Maminta, an anchor and medical reporter with WTNH/WCTX TV in New Haven. Her ability to welcome and professionally MC the event supported a positive experience for everyone who attended.

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