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**THE STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE INSTITUTE[®] ANNOUNCES THE ACCREDITATION OF
THE DELAWARE ALLIANCE FOR NONPROFIT ADVANCEMENT**

Wilmington, Delaware – The Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) and The Standards for Excellence Institute, a nationwide program that promotes self-regulation of ethical and accountable practices within the nonprofit sector, today are announcing the accreditation of DANA.

The Standards for Excellence Ethics & Accountability Program for the Nonprofit Sector has been available to DANA members since 2008 through a replication partnership with the Institute, but now DANA is excited to be awarded the Standards for Excellence seal themselves.

“We are thrilled to receive accreditation through the Standards for Excellence Institute,” says Chris Grundner, President and CEO of DANA. “We began pursuing it shortly after my arrival in 2012 because we wanted to show our members, the funding community, and the entire Delaware nonprofit sector that we ‘practice what we preach.’ Special thanks to the Standards for Excellence Institute for all its hard work aimed at making nonprofits great. We are proud to continue our partnership with them in Delaware on that mission here.”

The Standards for Excellence Code is the foundation for all of DANA’s Trainings and Consulting. These thorough trainings and seminars are offered to coach Delaware nonprofits through the implementation of these organizational best practice policies and procedures. Members of DANA also have access to educational resources and packets provided through DANA’s replication partnership with the Institute.

Nonprofits Enroll in Standards for Excellence Accreditation

The Standards for Excellence Institute is committed to raising the level of principled and responsible practices within the nonprofit sector. The Institute provides a model that organizations can implement to improve their effectiveness and decision-making, as well as minimize risks. Nonprofits in Delaware that adhere to this model can become formally accredited under the Standards for Excellence code through a partnership with DANA, and earn the right to display the Seal of Excellence.

Applying for accreditation is a cooperative, three-staged process between each organization and the Standards for Excellence Institute. The stages include a thorough review by Institute staff, a peer review by vetted volunteer third-party professionals, and final approval by a team of volunteer nonprofit experts who serve on the Institute’s Ethics Standards Committee. Applications are reviewed with consideration of each nonprofit’s individual mission, size, and resources. Applicants are provided with custom recommendations at each stage of review that are intended to strengthen the organization’s

impact and qualify them as a Standards for Excellence Seal holder. Organizations also have the option to be recognized for significant accomplishments through the Institute’s tiered recognition program.

Why a Code of Excellence is Important

Nonprofit organizations, as tax-exempt entities that, in many cases, are reliant on the generosity and trust of others, face sharp scrutiny to operate effectively and ethically. This scrutiny is intensified in the midst of scandals that are circulated through the media and raise concerns about accountability within the nonprofit sector. The Standards for Excellence Institute works to assist organizations in exceeding the minimum legal requirements of local, state and federal regulations to ensure they are fulfilling their obligations to those they serve, to their supporters, and to the public.

Recent additions have been made to the code in areas such as sustainability planning, resource development, cultural competency, board-executive relations, and disaster planning.

About the Standards for Excellence Institute and DANA

In 2008, BoardSource named the Standards for Excellence code as “one of the most important milestones in the field of nonprofit governance in the last 20 years.”

The Standards for Excellence originated as a special initiative of Maryland Nonprofits in 1998 and has since expanded into a national program to help nonprofit organizations achieve the highest benchmarks of ethics and accountability in nonprofit governance, management and operations. DANA became a licensed Replication Partner of the Institute in 2008, and offers customized educational resources, trainings and support to its members. Presently, five nonprofit professionals in Delaware have completed the Institute’s Licensed Consultant training program and are certified to offer direct support to nonprofit organizations who wish to comply with the program’s code of excellence.

If you would like to learn more about the Standards for Excellence program, details about the accreditation process, or general information about the Standards for Excellence program at DANA, visit www.standardsforexcellenceinstitute.org, www.delawarenonprofit.org, or contact **John Baker**, EVP for Policy & Programs, at 302.777.5500 or jbaker@delawarenonprofit.org.

Members of DANA Recognized by the Standards for Excellence Institute

Fully Accredited Seal Holder

DCRAC (Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council)

From Rashmi Rangan of DCRAC: “On behalf of the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, Inc., I take great pleasure and pride in saying congratulations to the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement on obtaining the Seal of Excellence from Standards for Excellence Institute. It is no small feat. Welcome to this elite club. I want to also recognize your hard work in helping other Delaware nonprofits work toward adopting Standards espoused by the National Standards for Excellence Institute.

Tier-Recognized Organization

Rehoboth Film Society – Tier 1

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