



Columbia Town Center 2016-2017 Rotarian of the Year Award

This member has been a Rotarian in good standing for 12 years running. During his tenure, he has held various leadership positions and committee membership to include Past President. Over the last few years, he has experienced grave health concerns that would have forced others, of lesser fortitude, to resign their membership. Through it all, he remained steadfast in his support and contribution. When limited physically from participating in projects – he was certain to contribute financially, with advice and moral support. This past year was a another banner year for our club; stable membership, another record fundraiser, continued support for our projects and throughout, John Contreras has been front and center in his support and leadership. He has attended over 90% of this year’s meetings, he has contributed to the Summer Enrichment Program, he has been very engaged in our meetings and even attended board meetings. John was critical in our choice for this year’s “Citizens that Make a Difference Award”, our fundraiser’s centerpiece. While employed at Athelas, John saw firsthand the work being done and the founders who continue to drive the mission of helping the learning disabled. John nominated, the hands down award recipient. He helped broker the interview and the write-up for our award winners.

He continued his support by getting over 20 Athelas employees to the event in support of our fundraiser and their company founders' work. At the event and others throughout the year – John has captured the moments with his keen photography skills, the same photos that enhance our Facebook and Website pages. John is one of our “True North” members; not one to mince words, he keeps us on course and in check whenever he feels we are veering from our club's purpose. It is with great pleasure that we present this year's Rotarian of the year award to Mr. John Contreras.