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GLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

GLENDALE, Ariz. –The Glendale Fire Department has named Engineer David Colson as its Firefighter of the Year for his efforts in 2013. The announcement came Thursday, August 28, during the Glendale Fire Department’s 27th Annual Awards Banquet.

Colson became a Glendale Firefighter after being introduced to the fire service through the Glendale Fire Cadet Program. The program provided him the opportunity to learn and experience the culture and day to day operations of a busy professional fire department. Those exposures ultimately lead to him being hired in 2003.

The Glendale Fire Department Cadet Program had such a profound impact on him personally and professionally that he was inspired to get involved as a mentor and shortly thereafter, manager of the entire program. Recently, 12 Glendale Fire Cadets have been hired by local fire departments.

In addition to the extra duties and responsibilities of managing a program, Colson teaches at Glendale Community College’s Fire Academy and was also the lead instructor at Apollo High School’s Fire Science Program for many years.

Colson is also the handler of Brewer, a Labrador that is a certified Urban Search and Rescue K-9. Obtaining this FEMA certification is a laborious and difficult task but the time and effort invested puts them in a position to help those in need when a disaster strikes.

Several other members of the department also received awards:

- Innovation Award: Fire Chief Mark Burdick
- Fire Chief’s Award for Excellence: Captain Paul Medina and Fire Marshall Chuck Jenkins
- Chief Don Heatwole Career Achievement Award: Assistant Fire Chief Elio Pompa
- Community Service Award: Captain Jeremy Krossman and Firefighter Adam Ellis
- Sworn Professional Excellence Award for a Crew: Captain Dan LaFond, Engineer Jason Zeller, and Firefighters Adam Ellis and Byron Ely Jr.
- Sworn Professional Excellence Award for an Individual: Firefighter Patrick Hourihan
- Non-Sworn Professional Excellence Award: Deputy Fire Marshall Tony Gavalyas
- Meritorious Service Award for Firefighters who fought Yarnell Fire: Peoria Firefighters James Flint, Tyson Esquibel, Doug Corrie and Glendale Fire Engineers Jarrett White and Engineer Walter Reed, and Firefighters Steve Dudzinski, Jeremy Jacks, and Dylan Nolan.
- 2013 Volunteer of the Year: Cadet Dan Musselman

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