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**Chamber Crowns ‘CEO of the Year’**

(GLENDALE, CA – March 22, 2007) — The Glendale Chamber of Commerce honored Verdugo Hills Hospital’s President and CEO Leonard LaBella with an award for successful business leadership at the annual State of the City and Awards Luncheon today.

It’s the first time LaBella has been nominated for the “CEO of the Year” Award although he has given years of service and commitment to the community, as well as the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber’s executive vice president Judith Kendall.

“Each year, the chamber selects the leader of a Glendale business to receive the “CEO of the Year” award and, this year, we are pleased to have selected Leonard LaBella,” Kendall said. “We are pleased to recognize Mr LaBella for bringing the hospital improved financial stability, demonstrated by patient growth and increasing revenue. Under his leadership, Verdugo Hills Hospital has been voted the community’s best hospital for consecutive years running.”

LaBella said he was deeply appreciative of the chamber’s award but insisted that credit for Verdugo Hills Hospital’s success must also go to his management team and staff.

“Knowing how dynamic the Glendale business community is, I really appreciate this recognition from the chamber,” said LaBella. “But, like any business enterprise, it takes a team effort to succeed – and healthcare is no exception. I truly share this award with the Verdugo Hills Hospital management team and our staff, who show their professionalism, compassion, and commitment to getting it right for our patients and our physicians on a daily basis.”

LaBella was presented with his award at the chamber’s State of the City and Awards Luncheon at the Hilton Glendale. The ceremony included a “State of the City” address by Mayor David Weaver and the presentation of a number of community awards.

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**Verdugo Hills Hospital President and CEO: Leonard LaBella**

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Glendale’s Best Hospital” for 2006 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff received accolades too. Dr Jane Wada was voted “Best Dermatologist,” Dr Jeffrey Nilles “Best Ophthalmologist,” Dr James Henry “Best Pediatrician,” Dr Brad Aguirre “Best Podiatrist” and Dr Samvel Hmayakyan “Best Family Practitioner.” For more information, visit [www.vhhospital.org](http://www.vhhospital.org).

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