



Contact: [Caren Arnstein](#)  
[Greater Naples Leadership](#)  
3838 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 200  
Naples, FL 34103  
239-300-7055  
[GNLoffice@GNLwebsite.org](mailto:GNLoffice@GNLwebsite.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 2, 2020**

**GNL NAMES JIM BARTON 2020 DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT**

**(Naples, FL)** - Greater Naples Leadership (GNL) has named Jim Barton as the 2020 recipient of its annual Distinguished Leadership Award in acknowledgment of his efforts as Chairman of Collier Senior Resources to establish the Golden Gate Senior Center (GGSC) in 2014, and concurrently to serve on its board, where he is also Chair. A luncheon will be held in his honor on Thursday, March 12, 2020, from 11:30 – 1:30PM at Naples Sailing and Yacht Club, 896 River Point Drive, Naples FL. Luncheon reservations may be made now through March 9<sup>th</sup> by calling 239-300-7055.

Mr. Barton is a proud member of the GNL Masters Class XIV. Upon his appointment as Board Chair at Collier Senior Resources, Mr. Barton set upon his mission to establish and maintain GGSC to meet the needs of the underserved senior population in Naples' Golden Gate City area. The Golden Gate Senior Center provides a variety of programs, classes, hot lunches, food pantry, employment assistance and resources for seniors and caregivers.

Mr. Barton is a former director of general services at Union Carbide Corporation, where he held

several roles over thirty-plus years, including those in sales and marketing, product management, real estate and facilities management. Upon retiring from Union Carbide in 1996, he joined Aramark in Philadelphia as Vice President/GM Facilities Operations, where he helped establish their facility management business. A native of Grand Rapids, MI, Jim attended Duke University, where he played varsity tennis and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering. He and wife Betsy enjoy time with their three children and eight grandchildren, “chasing the sun” by splitting time between their Grand Rapids summer home and wintering here in Naples.

Mr. Barton shares, “My dream of helping the underserved Golden Gate City elder population came true when the Golden Gate Senior Center opened in November 2014. It is exciting and rewarding to be involved in bringing the services needed to seniors and caregivers in the community.”

Senior Center Director Tatiana Fortune says, “Our community is blessed to have Jim Barton's leadership! Thanks to his vision, persistence, and determination as Board Chair of Collier Senior Resources, the Golden Gate Senior Center has been able to provide hope, dignity, and make a significant impact in the lives of thousands of seniors. He is an inspiring role model to many and is well deserving of this great award.”

For more information about Greater Naples Leadership, please email GNL Communications Chair [Caren Arnstein](#), call 239.300.7055 or visit [www.gnlwebsite.org](http://www.gnlwebsite.org).

[\\*Dropbox link to headshot of Jim Barton](#)

## **ABOUT GREATER NAPLES LEADERSHIP**

Greater Naples Leadership (GNL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing proven leaders with a unique opportunity to learn firsthand about Collier County's challenges and to encourage the use of their skills individually and collectively in addressing these needs and bettering the community. Now in its third decade, Greater Naples Leadership continues to provide exceptional opportunities for its members to improve the community and enrich their lives through first-hand learning experiences, rewarding relationships with accomplished, like-minded individuals and unparalleled access to meaningful board and volunteer roles.

**####**

Sent on behalf of Greater Naples Leadership by:  
Julie Clay  
EJC Productions  
239-572-0266