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Tony Johns
Office of Communications
623/572-3792

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY HONORS GLENDALE MAYOR WITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH AWARD

Mayor Elaine Scruggs to Receive COMET Award at Annual *Bright Lights, Shining Stars* Gala

GLENDALE, Arizona (September 8, 2011) – Each autumn, Midwestern University and the City of Glendale recognize outstanding individuals who have shown exemplary commitment to community service by presenting them with the COMET (Community Outreach: Motivating Excellence for Tomorrow) Award at Midwestern's annual *Bright Lights, Shining Stars* gala.

Midwestern University is honoring the Honorable **Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs** of the City of Glendale with the 2011 COMET Award. Mayor Scruggs has served in her current capacity since February 1993 and has lived in Arizona for forty years. During her tenure, the City of Glendale was named the first Kids at Hope city in the United States. In 1997, Mayor Scruggs established the Glendale University program to foster civic participation and a sense of ownership of local government, which has resulted in over 750 Glendale residents becoming active members of non-profit organizations, municipal commissions, and the Glendale City Council. Mayor Scruggs holds leadership positions on numerous regional organizations and committees, including the Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, and the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council. She was honored as Woman of the Year in 2003 by *Today's Arizona Woman* magazine.

Mayor Scruggs will be presented the 2011 COMET Award by Kathleen H. Goeppinger, Ph.D., President and CEO of Midwestern University, for the Mayor's role in attracting the University to Glendale in 1995. Through her support of Midwestern University's mission, Mayor Scruggs has influenced the growth of healthcare education in Glendale and the State of Arizona.

The *Bright Lights, Shining Stars* gala, which will take place on Saturday, October 15th, 2011 at Midwestern University's Glendale Campus at 19555 North 59th Avenue, is a black-tie-optional event that raises over \$100,000 in scholarship funds for students in all of Midwestern University's colleges. The evening features an outdoor reception, formal dinner, live entertainment, and a silent auction.

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Midwestern University is a graduate degree-granting institution specializing in the health sciences with nine colleges and two campuses. The Illinois campus, located on a 105-acre site in Downers Grove, is home to over 2,300 students and four colleges: the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Chicago College of Pharmacy, the College of Health Sciences, and the College of Dental Medicine-Illinois. The Arizona campus, located on a 144-acre site in Glendale, is home to over 2,800 students and five colleges: the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Pharmacy-Glendale, the College of Health Sciences, the College of Dental Medicine-Arizona, and the Arizona College of Optometry. The University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, a Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.