

Halifax Civic League recognizes Sharples, Williams



ORMOND BEACH - The Civic League of the Halifax Area has recognized two local men - Kent Sharples and Robert L. Williams - for their longtime community service.

"The Civic League works year-round in analysis and support of issues that impact our community and the leadership of these gentlemen have played a critical role in advancing that work," said Joe Petrock, chair of the Civic League, during the Jan. 16 annual dinner at the Oceanside Country Club.

Sharples was presented the Civic League's 2016 J. Saxton Lloyd Lifetime Achievement Award. Williams was named its Beacon Award winner for extraordinary service to the organization.

Sharples is president and CEO of the CEO Business Alliance, a group of private sector community leaders who fund and are actively engaged in economic development initiatives. He served as president of Daytona State College from 1999 to 2010, presiding over the six-campus system, a \$100 million budget, more than 1,000 employees and 34,000 students. He has been a leader in numerous other community initiatives.

Williams, too, has a long resume of business successes and community service. He is vice president of Population Health Business Development for Halifax Health, where he also serves as executive director of Volusia Health Network, a preferred provider physician network, an affiliate of Halifax Health. He joined Halifax Health after having chaired the Computer Science & Technology Department at Daytona State College, where he later served as senior vice president for Economic Development.

Former competitive swimmer and Olympian Rowdy Gaines was the keynote speaker for the dinner Saturday night. Gaines is a three-time Olympic gold medalist, competing in the 100-meter freestyle, 400-meter freestyle

relay and 400-meter medley relay events in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. He was a member of the NBC broadcast team for the Rio Olympic Games last summer.

Gaines was introduced by Charlie Lydecker, a local business executive, community leader and lifelong competitive swimmer. Lydecker was installed as the new chairman of the Civic League at the annual meeting, succeeding Petrock, who served in that capacity for two years.

Partnership Awards also were presented to the Daytona Regional Chamber and the CEO Business Alliance in recognition of their partnerships with the Civic League.