FSAO Alumna Joelen Merkel (BSAc ’73) Honored with Education Foundation of Palm Beach County Distinguished Alumni Award

Fisher School of Accounting Alumna Joelen Merkel (BSAc ’73) was recently honored with the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County Distinguished Alumni Award (Business/Legal category). This award was created to honor distinguished alumni and/or former students who are noted in their field of endeavor or recognized for their expertise and good works by their peers and others. These alumni must have graduated from or been enrolled in a Palm Beach County public school and must have distinguished themselves through achievement, service or contributions to society either locally or to the broader community. Joelen is a graduate of Palm Beach High School and is a member of the Fisher School of Accounting Advisory Board.

Joelen’s career began at Arthur Andersen & Co. in Miami where she worked as a CPA for three years. In 1976, she took a position as Assistant Corporate Controller with Chris-Craft Industries, Inc., a New York Stock Exchange company, moving from public accounting to industry and starting her 25-year career at that company. In this time, Mrs. Merkel reached the position of Senior Vice President and Treasurer of Chris-Craft, and also Senior Vice President, Treasurer and a Director of BHC Communications, Inc., an American Stock Exchange company, majority owned by Chris-Craft, until 2001. At that time Chris-Craft was acquired by News Corporation and Fox Television Stations and Mrs. Merkel served as a consultant for them for five years.