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EY Announces Melissa Beck, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters, as an EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2016 Orange County Semifinalist

SANTA ANA, Calif. – April 8, 2016 – EY today announced that Melissa Beck, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire, is a semifinalist for the [EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2016 Orange County Region](#) Award. Now celebrating its 30th year, the awards program recognizes entrepreneurs in more 145 cities and 60 countries who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. Beck was selected as a semifinalist by a panel of independent judges.

“I am thrilled to be selected as a semifinalist for the Entrepreneur of the Year competition,” Beck says. “It is exciting and humbling to be acknowledged alongside some of the top business leaders in Orange County. This is an incredible recognition for Big Brothers Big Sisters that highlights the positive impact our one-to-one mentoring programs have had on youth and the local community.”

Beck has served as CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire since 2013, after joining the organization as chief operating officer six months prior. One of the national organization’s leading agencies in the country, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire provided more than 3,000 children facing adversity with professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships in 2015. Last year, 98 percent of children in the program graduated high school on time, 90 percent enrolled in college, and 100 percent said their mentors were their biggest influence on pursuing a higher education.

Finalists for the regional award will be announced Monday, May 23, and winners will be announced at a formal Awards Gala on Friday, June 17, with more than 500 founders, CEOs and other business leaders in attendance, at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort in Dana Point, Calif.

Regional award winners are eligible for consideration for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the overall national award winner, will be announced at the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards gala in Palm Springs, Calif., on Nov. 19, 2016.

Follow all the latest program developments at www.ey.com/us/eoy/oc.

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About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire

Big Brothers Big Sisters believes that with the support of a caring mentor, every child has the ability to achieve his or her full potential. It is the nation’s largest donor- and volunteer-supported mentoring organization, serving a quarter-million children annually. Based in Santa Ana, Calif., the Orange County agency was incorporated in 1958 and works as a local extension of the national effort to make professionally supported, one-to-one matches between mentors (“Bigs”) and children (“Littles”) facing adversity. Together with the Inland Empire agency, which opened its doors in 2013, the local organization served more than 3,000 children in 2015 through programs that improve the

odds of youth performing better in school and avoiding violence and illegal activities. For more information, visit ocbigs.org.

About EY Entrepreneur Of The Year®

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The unique award makes a difference through the way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries.

About EY

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