President’s Everyday Hero Award

Diane Kaplan
Tribal Ally

Diane Kaplan became president and chief executive officer of Rasmuson Foundation, based in Anchorage, Alaska in 2001. She served as the first employee and administrator of the Foundation for six years prior to assuming the presidency. Before joining the Foundation, Kaplan provided consulting services for philanthropic organizations, Native corporations and tribes, and nonprofit organizations. Prior to that, she served as chief executive officer of Alaska’s 28-station public radio network. Kaplan earned a degree in communications and women’s studies from the University of Pennsylvania, graduating summa cum laude.

Kaplan is a member of the boards of the International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics, The Alaska Community Foundation, and the United States Artists. She is also a member of the Anchorage Homelessness Leadership Council and the Anchorage Rotary Club. Kaplan’s community contributions have been recognized by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Athena Society, Alaska Public Radio Network, Alaska Broadcasters Association, and YWCA.

In 2018, she was a recipient of a Lifetime Champion for Kids award from the Alaska Children’s Trust. In 2013, Kaplan received the First Alaskans Institute Ted Stevens Award. She was named the Council on Foundations Distinguished Grantmaker of the Year in 2007 and in 2006 received the Alaska Federation of Natives’ prestigious Denali Award which recognizes a non-Native individual who has contributed to the growth and development of the Alaska Native community’s culture, economy and health. She was also recognized with the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (N.O.B.E.L. Women) Shining Star Award in 2010.

The Tribal Ally award recognizes an individual who has made a tremendous effort to protect and strengthen tribal sovereignty and/or advance tribal justice.