



## For Immediate Release

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### **Olympian Kerri Strug and Community Leaders Liz and Fletcher McCusker to be Honored at the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl Kickoff Luncheon**

**TUCSON, Ariz., October 7, 2016** – In recognition of the hard work and dedication that enriches the environment of professional sports and the Southern Arizona community, the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl today announced the recipients of its inaugural Heather and Jon Volpe Tucson Strong and Governor’s Arizona Strong Awards. The awards will be presented at the bowl’s Kickoff Luncheon on October 14.

The Governor’s Arizona Strong Award will be conferred on gymnast and Tucson resident Kerri Strug, whose performance at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta captured the hearts of fans across the globe when she defied the odds with a gold medal victory in the face of an otherwise debilitating ankle injury.

The Heather and Jon Volpe Tucson Strong Award will be conferred on Liz and Fletcher McCusker, for their decades of tireless commitment to making Southern Arizona a better place for children, families, and business.

“Kerri Strug valiantly represented her native Tucson and her country on a global stage, showing the world what it means to compete with spirit, with determination, and with real grit,” said Mike Feder, executive director of the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl. “Going for the gold in the face of adversity requires a rare and special talent, and we couldn’t think of anyone as deserving as Kerri to receive this award; she’s a living symbol of the strength that defines us as Arizonans.”

“When it comes to community enrichment, Liz and Fletcher McCusker are at the heart of what makes Tucson such a wonderful place in which to live and work,” said Feder. “With Liz’s unyielding commitment at Tu Nidito to our kids impacted by serious medical conditions and loss, and Fletcher’s leadership in reimagining a fresh sense of vibrancy in economic development and downtown revitalization, it’s clear that this award belongs to the McCuskers,” he continued. “Liz and Fletcher are Tucson Strong at its very best.”

Strug and the McCuskers will be honored at the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl Kickoff Luncheon on October 14 at 11:30 am at the Doubletree Reid Park Hotel, where NFL star Ricky Hunley will give the keynote address. Individual tickets are \$65, and tables of 10 are \$600. Reservations can be made by calling 520-202-4838.

About the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl

Owned and operated by TD4Tucson, a Tucson-based non-profit organization, the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl will kick off on December 30, 2016, at 3:30 pm MST at Arizona Stadium. In its debut last year, the bowl raised more than \$85,000 for local charities and contributed \$16 million in local economic impact. This year's game will feature teams from the Mountain West and Sun Belt Conferences, with partnership support from the Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission and Campus Insiders. For more information visit [www.NOVAArizonaBowl.com](http://www.NOVAArizonaBowl.com).

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