



For Immediate Release

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College Football Hall of Famer and NFL Veteran Ricky Hunley to Keynote NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl Kickoff Luncheon

TUCSON, Ariz., September 21, 2016 – Former University of Arizona football star and first-round NFL pick Ricky Hunley will return to his college home of Tucson on October 14 to keynote the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl Kickoff Luncheon at the Doubletree Reid Park Hotel. Hunley’s appearance will anchor an exciting program that will include other guest speakers and the conferring of two community leadership awards as well.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled to welcome Ricky back to Tucson to commence our 11-week countdown to kickoff,” said Mike Feder, executive director of the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl. “Ricky’s story is a story of sports at its best, and this lunch event is the perfect backdrop for Ricky to share his enthusiasm for a bowl game that will showcase Southern Arizona at our best,” he concluded.

Hunley played for the University of Arizona Wildcats from 1980 to 1983 and was recognized as a consensus first-team All-American. He was drafted in the first round by the Cincinnati Bengals, and his professional career included stints with the Phoenix Cardinals, Oakland Raiders, and Denver Broncos, where he played in two Super Bowls. He also became the first Arizona Wildcat football player to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

The Kickoff Luncheon will be emceed by Shae Pepler, host of *The Feed* and *Inside the College Football Rankings* on Campus Insiders, with additional remarks from University of Arizona Athletic Director Greg Byrne.

The program will also include the announcement of two inaugural leadership awards that the bowl’s board of directors created to recognize individuals in the community.

The *Heather and Jon Volpe Tucson Strong Award* will honor an individual who has demonstrated an enduring positive impact on the Southern Arizona community.

The *Governor's Arizona Strong Award* will be conferred on an individual who has competed at the highest levels of sport who has exhibited and motivated future generations to adopt the best characteristics of sports and competition including hard work, dedication, selflessness, and humility.

Individual tickets for the Kickoff Luncheon are \$65, with tables of 10 for \$600. Reservations for the 12:00 pm event can be made by calling 520-202-4838 or by clicking on the event flyer at www.novahomeloans.com/media/4612/kickoff-luncheon-invite-flyer-2.pdf

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.

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