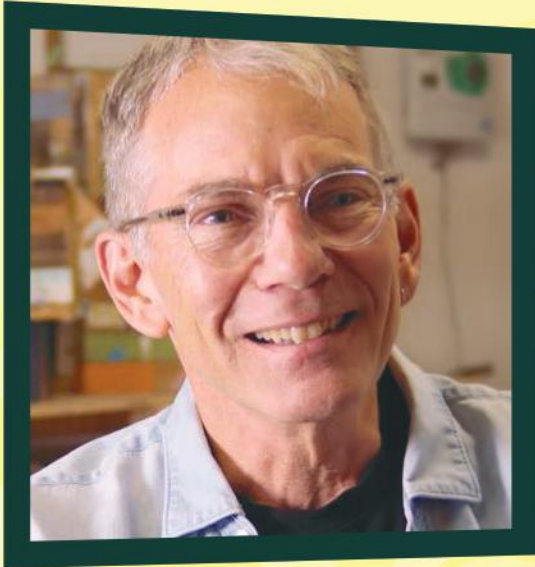


ad person of the year



Tom Ortega
Chief Creative Officer | RIESTER

It's no surprise Tom Ortega has progressed from freelance copywriter to Chief Creative Officer and Partner during his 30-year run at RIESTER, one of the top agencies in Phoenix. During his remarkable career, he's been a prolific producer of award-winning campaigns that are not only edgy, out-of-the-box, and entertaining – but also highly effective.

His peers say he leads his team to be the best they can be. He pushes for greatness without demanding sacrifice. And he's always on hand to help. A true leader moves forward, and everyone wants to follow Tom.

He's a champion of using advertising to better the world, Tom encourages his team to take on nonprofit work as part of the RIESTER Foundation and beyond. If there's an opportunity to make a difference in some way, no matter how small, he jumps at it.

Tom is retiring to pursue an opportunity with First Place, a residential community for people with autism. A fitting finale to a career filled with love and service to others.

Previous Recipients

2020 Amy Packard Berry
2019 Dave Robb
2018 Scott Harkey
2017 Ted Anderson
2016 Mirja Riester
2015 Kristin Bloomquist
2014 Mark Anthony Muñoz
2013 Beau Lane
2012 Matt Owens
2011 DD Kullman

2010 Park Howell
2009 Fran Mallace
2008 Chris McMurry
2007 Roger Hurni
2006 Jos Anshell
2005 Tim Riester
2004 Karen Kallet
2002 David Anderson
2001 Barbara Lehman
2000 Brian Landauer

1999 Marty Laurel
1998 Dee Courtwright
1997 Louis Moses
1996 Carl Eller
1995 Ed Lane
1994 Ray Artigue
1993 Liz Topete-Stonefield
1992 Ron Bergamo
1991 Jim Tazarek, Sr.
1990 Walt Selover

1989 Bill Lavidge
1988 Rolf Normann
1987 Dan Pollick
1986 Jim Hutelmyer
1985 Win Holden
1984 Mary Morrison
1983 Karen Dewall
1982 Bill Owens
1980 Don Hildebrandt
1979 Bob Reade

1978 Ardelle Whitehead
1977 Kenneth Patton
1976 Marlene Koltz
1975 Daphne Dicino
1974 Pat Poulson
1973 Maurie Helle
1972 Bob Bulla
1971 Sherwin Block
1970 Lou Reynolds
1967 Duncan Jennings

1966 Charles Pine
1965 Hal Metcalf
1964 Bob Zacher
1963 Mary Simunich
1962 John Redfield
1961 Mildred May
1960 Avis Garland
1959 Andy Chuka, Sr.