

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Network Professional Association
888-NPA-NPA0
press@npa.org



2010 NPA Awards for Professionalism

Network Professionals Honored

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA – April 28, 2019. The Network Professional Association® (NPA), in conjunction with Interop, Microsoft, GITCA, Cisco Press, and TechTeam announce four individuals as winners of the ninth annual Awards for Professionalism. The international contest for the Awards for Professionalism honors individuals working as network computing professionals. Selection is based on meeting the ideals of the Network Professional Association, the advocate for the network computing professional. Winners will receive a specially designed personalized trophy, a one-year membership in the NPA and a Cisco Press prize pack with multiple books of their choice. Read the full story at www.AwardsforProfessionalism.org.

Congratulations to our esteemed winners in the following categories:

The Best Networking Professional – Career Achievement Award is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated the highest levels of integrity, professionalism and ethics throughout their career. **Joseph F. Sifer** is a Booz Allen Hamilton Senior Vice President with over 20 years of experience in information technology (IT) and telecommunications systems consulting. He is the officer-in-charge of program support for the Army, National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve as well as the officer-in-charge of the Firm's networking engineering capabilities.

Professional Excellence and Innovation Award – Corporate Small Business honors the network computing professional who has made the most effective combination of the ideals of professionalism and the innovative use of networking technology and/or products for a particular networking project. **Zachary Schuler** founded Cal Net Technology Group in 1995 in order to fill a growing need for quality technology consulting services for the small and middle market. Zack's leadership, dedication and focus have helped build Cal Net into a thriving company of talented technology consultants and engineers, relied upon by hundreds of businesses and considered by Microsoft as one of their top partners in Los Angeles.

Outstanding Mentor Award honors the networking professional who has made the most effective combination of the ideals of professionalism and the accomplished mentor. This year's winner, **ChandraShekar Thota** started a unique and first of its kind community website in Hyderabad exclusively for developers working on Microsoft technologies and now has 1000+ members and 120+ unique features. He encourages techies to become active speakers, mentors and authors.

Top of the Mark - Volunteer Award honors the networking professional who has made the most effective combination of the ideals of professionalism and is a notable example of the best in giving back through selfless effort. **Rahul Nathan** volunteers a large amount of time leading groups such as My-TUG (Mysore Technology User Group) and MY-TDG (Mysore Technology Developer Group) which focus on Microsoft Technologies like the Windows Server, Exchange Server, Dot Net and SQL Server. He has also lead the Microsoft SQL Server Chapter of the Professional Association for SQL Server (SQL PASS) in Mysore and Bangalore IT Pro Users Group.

The honored networking professionals were recognized during a dinner celebration while at Interop Las Vegas at China Grill, Mandalay Bay.

Sponsors of the Awards for Professionalism

***Interop**, the leading business technology event, is proud to support NPA's Awards for Professionalism, honoring outstanding contributions in the networking industry held during Interop Las Vegas, April 25-29 at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center.*

***Microsoft**, a leader in the support of IT professionalism and ethics, is proud to support NPA's Awards for Professionalism, honoring the inspiring activities of network computing professionals around the world.*

***Cisco Press** is a publishing alliance between Cisco® (NASDAQ: CSCO) and the Pearson Education division of Pearson plc (NYSE: PSO). Established in 1996, Cisco Press is the official publisher of Cisco networking technology, Cisco certification self-study, and Cisco Networking Academy Program materials. Leading authorities from Cisco and other industry innovators write and contribute to the Cisco Press product family which combines instructor-led training with hands-on instruction, e-learning, and self-study.*

Cisco Press is proud to support the Network Professional Association (NPA) in awarding outstanding achievements within the network computing industry. Providing education materials and promoting professional growth are part of the Cisco Press mission; sponsoring the NPA awards allows Cisco Press to recognize those who have truly excelled in the industry. Visit ciscopress.com for more information.

***GITCA (Global IT Community Association)** is an international not-for-profit organization devoted to the development and growth of the IT community. After supporting and connecting professional user groups and associations, student organizations, and solution providers for more than four years we have come to understand the goals and needs of each group, as well as the resources they have to share. We are happy to support the efforts of organizations such as the NPA that promote excellence in all that they do, ultimately elevating the status of the IT Pro both in their industry and in the community.*

***TechTeam** -Practice makes perfect. At TechTeam, we put everything we have into doing what we do best - delivering service desk, IT infrastructure management and technical support outsourcing to medium and large companies as well as government organizations. Our expertise in these areas, combined with our culture of customer focus and continuous improvement, enables us to consistently deliver results for our customers.*

***NPA**, Established 1991, the non-profit Network Professional Association® (NPA) is the leading organization for network computing professionals. To be identified as true professionals, the NPA's international membership adheres to a code-of-ethics, continual demonstrated professional development, adherence and knowledge of the latest best practice standards, and strives for continual growth. The widely acknowledged and the industry's only international*

Awards for Professionalism honors individuals for their outstanding achievements in network computing and meeting the values of professionalism. The impartial strength of the NPA is a result of vendor neutrality and self-regulation. With more than 18,000 associates in more than 70 countries the NPA focus is to support and promote the role of the network professional through advocacy.

*The **CNP** is the consummate professional credential of the NPA. Career growth, proven experience, validated certification, advanced education, ethics and NPA membership are all steps towards achieving the **CNP** – Certified Network Professional credential.*

*A member of the NPA believes in the values of the professional association, its focus on the **CNP** credential and the professional status of network professionals through advocacy. Members receive a certificate of membership, quarterly Journal publications, benefits derived through chapters and programs, and opportunities to volunteer, publish and develop.*

NPA: ADVOCATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK COMPUTING PROFESSIONAL