Network Professional Association Presents Awards for Professionalism 2008 Winners Announced at Interop, Las Vegas

Award Winners Honored for Professionalism and Excellence

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA – April 30, 2008. The Network Professional Association® (NPA), in conjunction with Interop, Network World Magazine, Culminis, Cisco Press, and InformationWeek announced six individuals as the winners of the seventh annual Awards for Professionalism program which honors individuals for their outstanding achievements as professionals within the international network computing industry. 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 story at www.AwardsforProfessionalism.org

Best Networking Professional Career Achievement Award
Debra Rowe - Knowledge Management Lead for the Operations Group, Information Technology Directorate, Air Traffic Organization of the Federal Aviation Administration, West Columbia, South Carolina.
During her interview Debra explained, "I'm honored to win this award, networking has been my life since the 80s starting with Unix and starling and brose, networking is my life." This award honors Debra Rowe for demonstrated years of the highest ideals of the network computing professional. Debra serves as a role model in the network computing community and may be considered by peers as an industry luminary. Debra's networking knowledge and experience have enabled her to contribute to the Air Traffic National Airspace System (NAS) and help ensure that NAS equipment provides safer skies. She has worked on Air Traffic teams as emergency situations required troubleshooting inoperative equipment and communications feeds for the NAS.

Best Mentor Award

Boris Jocoy - President, Tech Brainy Consulting, Aliso Viejo, California

Boris Jocoy was chosen as the 2008 Outstanding Mentor. Boris exemplifies the best balance of professional responsibilities of the NPA. He is an evangelist for computer professionals within networking groups and a regular speaker at events on subjects such as technology professional ethics, the value of certification, security, Microsoft Exchange, servers, and much more. He has well-documented credentials and a solid commitment to educational advancement within the computer networking industry.

Professional Excellence and Innovation Award: Corporate Fortune X

Michael Morris - Technical Team Lead and Network Architect – IT
Communications Engineering, NetApp, RTP, North Carolina

This award honors Michael Morris for his effective combination of the ideals of professionalism and the innovative use of networking technology. Michael led the team setting the groundwork for network standards and network design templates that could be used to build a new network at NetApp, while concurrently beginning the procurement process for a new global network based on MPLS IP VPNs. His team designed the global routing for the new network, based on an incredibly scalable and elegant BGP and OSPF design, proven very resilient, scalable, and flexible. Overall telecom costs were cut by 18% with a 6-month ROI. Scalability was incredibly enhanced and availability is near 4 nines.

Professional Excellence and Innovation Award: Government

James E. Atkinson - Budget Analyst, Special Operations Command Europe,
Stuttgart, Germany

This award honors James Atkinson who independently developed a secure network, automated Special Funding Guide for use by the Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR), Headquarters European Command (EUCOM), Headquarters Africa Command (AFRICOM), NATO Special Operations Coordination Centre (NSCC), Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA), and other commands in the Special

Operations Community to identify, track, submit, and obtain special funding from a variety of sources to support missions and exercises. He successfully developed an automated, interactive system for posting, maintaining, and updating special funding criteria on the SOCEUR SharePoint Portal.

Professional Excellence and Innovation Award: Education
Bill Maynard - CIO/COO, NetCom America, Carlsbad, California
In his leadership role at NetCom Bill Maynard is responsible for corporate infrastructure and California operations. Bill took a new private 7-12 grade school's technology from blank paper to implementation in approximately 8 months, including plans to grow from 150 students to 600 in four years. He was responsible for the design approval, coordination and management of the complete project, encompassing everything from fiber optic networks to battery backups. The school opened as planned and all the technologies implemented were fully functional. Through the careful selection of the technologies and technology partners the school will be able to scale their solutions to the mature state without replacing any of the technologies that were implemented.

Top of the Mark — Volunteer Award
Adnan Rafik - Principal Consultant, IT Selekt Consulting and Solutions, United Arab Emirates (Dubai)
This award honors Adnan Rafik for a notable combination of the ideals of professionalism and industry service through selfless effort. Adnan is a passionate IT Professional who loves to promote IT Professionalism around the United Arab Emirates (UAE) region. Adnan has founded Techies, a UAE IT Pros technical community. He is developing technical community local presence in each UAE state to serve the community better and organize regular meetings. Adnan has the passion to do something productive for the IT industry and is never afraid of facing any challenges ahead. He is a team player and works easily with different people and he is a positive thinker, thus he succeeds.

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. Cisco Press is proud to support the 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.

Culminis 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.

Interop, the leading business technology event, is proud to support NPA's Awards for Professionalism, honoring outstanding contributions in the networking industry. This year's recipients will be announced during Interop Las Vegas, April 27-May 2, 2008 at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center

Network World was founded 22 years ago to help network executives make informed technology business decisions, and today carries on that tradition through its weekly magazine and its Web site, Networkworld.com, which serves 1.5 million visitors each month. As the industry's leading advocate for network professionals, Network World welcomes the opportunity to work with NPA on this prestigious award program honoring network decision makers.

Information Week serves an audience of 2 million business technology executives across its online magazine, and event products. It's the media brand of choice for business technology execs because every story, blog post, review, analyst report, and conference program is designed to give them the answers they need to drive business value. Our editors don't just report on what's happening; they analyze what it means and tell site users, readers, and event attendees what they should do about it.

<u>About the NPA</u>

Since 1991 the non-profit Network Professional Association® (NPA) has served as the advocate for the international network computing professional. With a focus on professionalism, the NPA's international membership adheres to a code-of-ethics and strives for continual growth. The impartial strength of the NPA is a result of vendor neutrality and self-regulation. The Association's directive is to support and promote the role of the network professional.   The NPA administers the Certified Network Professional® (CNP) international designation program. For more information, visit www.npa.org or call 888-NPA-NPA0.

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