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PRESS RELEASE

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AUSTIN - The Texas Association of State Systems for Computing and Communication (TASSCC) held its annual conference in Dallas, Texas from August 1st through the 4th. Over 340 members and associate members were in attendance. During the conference, TASSCC bestowed several awards to recognize excellence and innovation in Texas public sector IT services.

The TASSCC President's Award for IT Excellence recognizes individual leadership and excellence in information technology by an individual who works for a state agency or institution of higher education. This prestigious award recognizes an IT leader who has provided outstanding information technology leadership to the state over many years. Special consideration is given to those who have played a strong role in mentoring and sharing their information technology experience/knowledge with others, promoted intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration, and supported the goals of the TASSCC organization.

The TASSCC President's Award recipient for 2010 is Debby Wattman. Debby is the Director of Information Technology & Information Resource Manager (IRM) at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Debby has worked with DFPS since its inception in 1992. During that time Debby has been a leader in IT innovation for the agency. Debby championed and led the several key initiatives at the agency. Debby Wattman has committed her career to supporting caseworkers through the use of innovative technology. Debby has worked with many different technologies, but the goal has always been the same: To get critical tools in the hands of caseworkers to help them do their jobs. Debby has served in many different roles, but in each one she displayed the same set of core values including: • Fostering a professional environment where all are valued • Mentoring others • Providing quality service • Accountability • Focusing on outcomes.

Debby has managed many successful projects and her initiatives have received numerous awards including: • Best of Texas award for "Excellence in IT Collaboration" in 2002 for the CLASS Project. • Best of Texas "Project Excellence" award in 2005 for the APS Tablet Project • Computerworld Honors Award in 2004 for IMPACT • Center for Digital Government Award in 2004 for IMPACT • TASSCC "Excellence Award for Innovative Use of Technology" in 2006 for DFPS Mobile Solutions • Best of Texas "Project Excellence" award in 2010 for the CLASSMate Project.

Debby is committed to ensuring that her organization provides high-quality customer service. She encourages the team to always keep the customers in mind when planning

for new applications or delivering hardware solutions. In her current role, Debby is focused on setting the strategic direction for the division, but she always keeps up to date on what is happening in the field.

Debby is a well respected leader who lives the mission and vision of TASSCC every day. Debby joined DFPS at its inception in 1992. At that time, caseworkers functioned in a paper-based system. By the mid-nineties every worker in the agency had a desktop PC and CAPS was the DFPS system of record. After guiding the agency into this new technology, Debby continued to strategically move the agency forward with the latest innovations and tools available. She next pushed for web-based solutions and was able to move CAPS from a client-server setting to a web-based infrastructure. She was also able to lead the charge of building systems for other key programs for DFPS including CLASS (for childcare licensing) and IMARC (for contract management). Most recently she has led the agency to embrace mobile solutions. In conclusion, Debby embodies all the values of TASSCC and the Presidential award. She inspires her staff to innovate and design creative solutions for customers. She is an innovative leader who has provided leadership and excellence in information technology during her career of over 35 years of state service.

The TASSCC mission is to advance education and networking among Texas public sector IT professionals. TASSCC's full members include state agencies and state institutions of higher education, while associate members are primarily companies involved in computing and communications. TASSCC produces three education conferences and participates in numerous community service events throughout the year.