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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 San Antonio, Texas from August 7th through the 10th. Over 350 members and associate members were in attendance. During the conference, TASSCC bestowed 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 2011 is Bowden Hight. Bowden is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) at the Health and Human Services Commission of Texas.

During his career, Bowden has been with Anderson Consulting, the Texas Employment Commission, Protective and Regulatory Services, Office of the Attorney General, and the Texas Railroad Commission before accepting the position of Chief Information Officer for the Health and Human Services Commission.

Bowden has established a track record of doing good work for the public and private sector. Bowden has been describes as someone who is "persistent, does not give up, charges in and does it all with humor and grace, does not mope..... a "dogged" individual".

Bowden was the first IRM for the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) after it was separated from Department of Human Services in 1993. He began his tenure during the implementation of a difficult project and soon after starting he was tasked with testifying in front of the Texas Legislature.

During his time at DFPS Bowden saw this, and other, projects through to implementation. Jim Hine, former Commissioner at the Department of Human Services remarked – "Bowden sees things from every angle, he has a breadth of experience, he always brings a calm direction and logical leadership to the situation."

Bowden has also played strong leadership roles in volunteer organizations, carving out time from his already packed and demanding work schedules. Recently, he served as president of TASSCC and as the chair of the Data Center Services leadership team. In all of these positions he brought the same drive and balanced approach moving these organizations to higher levels of performance and meaningful work.

At HHSC, where Bowden is the CIO, he has already made a difference. In less than six months, he has overseen significant improvements in one of the agency's most critical systems while tackling organizational changes.

Many have pointed out that Bowden's private industry work was government focused – his heart is clearly with government – and we have all won because of it.