



TribalNet Announces Winners of the 2015 TribalNet Industry Awards

December 9, 2015- TribalNet recognized the 2015 Tribal Technology Industry Award recipients at the 16th Annual TribalNet Conference in Austin, TX the week of November 2-5, 2015.

Each year TribalNet reviews applications received from tribal organizations and enterprises all across the U.S. for the annual industry awards. These awards, in their 7th year, are meant to recognize excellence within the industry, a way to share accomplishments among peers. This year TribalNet honored IT departments from three tribal organizations at the annual conference.

Mark Treat, Director of IT accepted the award on behalf of the **Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC)**. "This award is especially meaningful as it is recognition among our peers in the Tribal IT field. It is gratifying to our entire Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community IT Department to know that our diligence and accomplishments are acknowledged at a well-respected organization such as TribalNet. We consistently have many projects in-flight and numerous completed throughout a year and feel as though we really are 'doing more with less', as stated by the Hurdlers Award, the recognition of this is very rewarding."

Chuck Scharnagle, CIO of the **Mohegan Tribe** accepted their award on behalf of his team. "We at the Mohegan Tribe's IS Department greatly appreciate this award. The fact that TribalNet saw fit to give us the Innovator's Award helps validate the hard work and dedication it took to get RingSide to where it is today. Everyone associated with the project recognizes that other tribes are working equally hard to create opportunities for their tribal governments, casinos and other entities. To be placed at the top for a year is very special for all of us."

Ram Patrachari, CIO of **Viejas Enterprises** accepted the award on behalf of his team. "Thank you for recognizing our team for all their hard work and accomplishments. I am thrilled to receive the award on behalf of the Viejas IT team from an organization like TribalNet. Our IT team members bring their talents and drive to collaborate with each other to execute on the vision laid out by our General Manager and the Tribe. The award has energized the team even more to focus on critical business needs and deliver value to the enterprise"

TribalNet Executive Director Shannon Bouschor comments, "We would like to thank ALL of the tribal organizations and enterprises who submitted their recommendations this year. Each season we are thrilled to have the opportunity to hear so many positive changes happening at tribal organizations and enterprises all across the U.S. through the effective use of technology AND leadership/management strategies. We'd love to recognize every story- they are really all successes that should be celebrated."

In the first quarter of 2016, TribalNet will announce the process for award nominations in 2016 and start accepting nominations immediately. Currently, the new award criteria is being redefined. The deadline will be moved back to earlier in the year and the voting process is changing to involve and engage conference attendees. "This is an exciting step for us to take by involving input beyond our advisory board," comments Bouschor. "We really think the industry will enjoy the changes we implement for the new year." The awards are always presented each year at the annual TribalNet conference which will be held November 7-10, 2016 at the Sheraton Marina in San Diego, CA."

For more information on TribalNet go to www.tribalnetonline.com

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