



## News Release

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### **DGS honors public procurement professionals, teams**

*~ Xcelerator Awards presented at 2015 Public Procurement Forum ~*

Virginia Beach, VA –The Department of General Services’ Division of Purchases and Supply on Monday recognized public procurement professionals whose achievements have advanced the process for purchasing goods and services in the Commonwealth.

The division presented the Procurement Xcelerator Awards to individuals and teams during a luncheon at the 2015 Public Procurement Forum at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. In its second year, the awards program recognizes how procurement is used to meet the strategic goals of public agencies and to highlight the outstanding contributions of employees at state agencies, local governments and institutions of higher education in advancing efficiency and effectiveness in their supply chains.

The 2015 Procurement Xcelerator Award winners include:

#### **INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

- **Procurement Achievement Award** \_ Recognizes a professional whose efforts have had a significant impact on the wider organization or secured procurement a seat at the management table:
  - Charity L. Hooper of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control transformed technology procurement in her agency, resulting in clearer scopes of work, stronger contracts and reduced costs. She introduced efficiencies in the acquisition and management of technology contractors and coached a team of technical and business experts through a process to more clearly identify deliverables and acceptance criteria and address high-level risks. The result was

a contract to redevelop the agency's website that won a national award for outstanding achievement in web development.

- **Career Achievement Award** \_ Recognizes a longtime procurement professional whose achievements showcase innovation, adeptness at applying procurement principles to solve difficult issues or advancing public procurement:
  - Eugene Anderson of Norfolk State University has enhanced the performance of purchasing at different universities, contributed thoughtful and far-reaching procurement policies and regulations while becoming an expert on the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA), and been a strong supporter of professional development. He served on a legislative committee that studied the VPPA and has served in numerous positions with the Virginia Association of Governmental Purchasing. In his role as Director of Purchasing Services for the university, Anderson guided the organization through a significant process re-engineering and training project that resulted in improved purchasing cycle time, reduced late payments and enhanced compliance and transparency.

## TEAM/AGENCY AWARDS

- **Innovation Award** \_ Recognizes a team that demonstrated a distinct new method or approach to a challenging issue, a significant improvement to the quality of a function, or taking an already high-performing function to a new level:
  - The Consultant Project Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation overhauled the agency's professional services procurement process, resulting in improved efficiencies and cost savings while ensuring process consistency across the state. Processing times were slashed by months, milestone steps were carved from processes, and processes consolidated into a single office that supports improved tracking of schedules and costs.
- **Collaboration Award** \_ Recognizes a team that has worked with another department from the same organization or with an external agency or supplier to deliver a successful project or initiative:
  - The Procurement Services Team at Norfolk State University worked with the school's Division of Fine Arts to create appropriately themed artwork to decorate its renovated office suite. The team worked with 13 students who analyzed the space, researched and gained a better understanding of procurement, develop a theme and created a design for the space. Working with students not only reduced project costs, it benefited the students by teaching them valuable customer service skills.
- **Supply Chain Management Award** \_ Recognizes the organization that has implemented an initiative or practice that has positively impacted the performance of the organization's supply chain:
  - The Vendor Scorecard Project Team of Procurement and Supplier Diversity Services at the University of Virginia developed an easy-to-use vendor scorecard that provided a quantifiable method to track and measure the

performance of the organization's strategic vendors over the length of their contracts. The scorecard provided a way for the vendor to focus its services in areas the organization most desires; for the university to know what it is saving through innovation; and for both to enjoy a stronger relationship.

- **Learning and Development Award** \_ Recognizes an organization that is using learning and development to solve a specific problem in the procurement organization or to address an upcoming challenge:
  - The Materiel Management and Procurement Services Team at Tidewater Community College took on procurement process mapping as a way to improve organizational and employee productivity, reduce or eliminate waste or errors, and involve and train employees in improving work processes. The team developed a visual representation of every step performed to provide a good or service then evaluated each step to determine which could be eliminated or improved. The project resulted in improved organizational efficiencies for the organization and, for the customers, increased understanding of the processes, reduced frustration with procurement and improved access to information. This was the second win for the Tidewater Community College team, who last year won the award for developing an organization-wide Procurement Forum to educate non-procurement college staff.
  
- **Statewide Electronic Procurement “eVA” Award** \_ Recognizes a team that successfully used eVA to advance procurement in the agency:
  - The Virginia Department of Health implemented eVA Contract Management across a large and decentralized organization, improving communication and volume tracking for the more than 400 contracts it has under management. Now users can update information in real time and can quickly and easily view contracts across the agency. The agency gained workflow efficiencies in the management of contract renewals and modifications, and service to agency users improved through standardization.

For more information about the Division of Purchases and Supply or 2015 Forum, visit [www.dgs.virginia.gov](http://www.dgs.virginia.gov).

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