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Annual Technical Communication Awards Announced

Local STC Community Presents 25 Awards to Area Writers

Dallas, Texas—January 13, 2006—Technical Publications, Online Communications, and Technical Art entries from local professionals and companies received awards of Distinguished, Excellence, Merit, and Best of Show at the Lone Star Community (LSC) of the Society for Technical Communication Awards Banquet held yesterday at the Crowne Plaza hotel.

Carter & Burgess, Inc. won Best of Show for their quick reference guide, "Concepts in Transit Studies: Transit Technologies & Vehicle Studies," submitted by Miranda Butler-Swanger, Stephen Wills, P.E., and David Sims. Their entry was described by judges as "very accessible and easy to read," and "Excellent... complete, succinct, and useful." Accepting for the team (and winner of an additional award of Merit) was Lindsay Kubes. When describing how she felt about their wins, Ms. Kubes said she was "very surprised and excited!" These were Carter & Burgess' first entries in the STC competitions.

Another first-time entrant and first-time winner of a Distinguished award for her training manual "Baggage Service Office Manual," Kristen Nolan, STC member and technical writer for Southwest Airlines, said the experience was "pretty darn cool! It's nice to know the effort paid off." "Of course," she added, "It's wasn't just me; it was the whole group."

In a nice progression, one of last year's LSC Scholarship winners, Rebecca Walton, STC student member and entrant in the Student Technical Publications competition, became a winner of an Award of Merit for her entry, "Capabilities Brochure," for the University of North Texas. Ms. Walton said, "It's all terribly exciting" to go from scholarship winner to award winner. "I just sent off my Ph.D. applications, so it was really wonderful to get this first, professional award."

Thomas Moore and Laurie McCawley, from Radiant Systems, won an Award of Merit for their entry, "Inventory Control Manager's Guide v2.0." This is Mr. Moore's 6th win. When asked how it felt to be a six-time winner, Mr. Moore responded, "It's really gratifying. This is recognition from your peers." Will he be entering again next year? "Oh yeah; I already have a project in mind."

Other companies' entries receiving awards included: Dell; Intervice; MLink Technologies; Sterling Commerce; and Lockheed Martin Corporation.

LSC President and owner of the communications firm Content Solutions, Louellen S. Coker, enthused, "We had an outstanding group of entries this year, and LSC is excited to present awards to our winners. Our annual competitions program is more than an opportunity for technical communicators to receive recognition for their skills; it allows all entrants the opportunity to receive invaluable input from their peers in other regions of the United States. Our highly-qualified volunteer judges enhance these benefits not only by sharing their knowledge, but by reviewing documents through a comprehensive rubric." Ms. Coker concluded by saying, "Every aspect of the LSC Technical Communication Competition is aimed at bettering the careers of technical communicators."

The Lone Star Community conducts this competition annually as a part of STC's International Technical Communication Competitions. This year, the LSC exchanged entries for judging with the STC Twin Cities Community in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area of Minnesota. Of the 41 entries LSC submitted, 25 (or just over 63%) won awards. Winners of the Distinguished Award will go on to compete at the International Competition against entries from around the U.S. and the world. Visit the LSC web site at www.stc-dfw.org for a complete list of the local winners.

The Society for Technical Communication offers the following competitions to evaluate professional technical communication in different media:

- **Online Communication**

Includes forms of communication that depend on a computer or other electronic media for delivery.

- **Technical Art**

Includes both physical media and online technical art products.

- **Technical Publications**

Printed material illustrating technical writing.

These competitions have two tiers: local (chapter/community) or regional level, and international (Society-wide) level. An entry must win an award of Distinguished Technical Communication at the local or regional level to qualify for automatic submission to STC's International Competitions. These competitions are open to all technical communication professionals; entrants do not have to be an STC member to participate.

About STC and the Lone Star Community

The Society for Technical Communication (STC) is an individual membership organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication. It is the largest organization of its type in the world. Its 18,000 members include technical writers and editors, content developers, documentation specialists, technical illustrators, instructional designers, academics, information architects, usability and human factors professionals, visual designers, Web designers and developers, and translators – anyone whose work makes technical information available to those who need it.

The Lone Star Community (LSC), one of the largest STC communities in the U.S., received the Award of Merit in the International STC Chapter Achievement competition for 2004-2005. The LSC has received awards in this competition for three consecutive years. Drawing over 250 members from all over the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the LSC promotes professional growth through meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, mentoring, and networking. For more information about the STC Lone Star Community, visit their website at www.stc-dfw.org.

LSC meetings are always open to visitors. Registration and networking begin at 5:30 p.m.; the Newcomers (SIN) SIG meets at 5:45 p.m.; dinner is served at 6:15 p.m.; and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. Dinner costs \$20 for STC members and \$25 for non-members, with reservations. Without reservations, costs for the dinner and program are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.

The cost for “program only” attendance is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members, with reservations. Without reservations costs for the program only are \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. The program is always free to students with reservations and valid student IDs. The registration and reservation deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the Monday, before the meeting. You may register by visiting the LSC website at www.stc-dfw.org.

For more information

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