FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT
Kay Logan
ConnellyWorks, Inc.
kay@connellyworks.com
703-395-3939

AFCEA BETHESDA HONORS INDIVIDUALS FOR AGENCY-WIDE IT CONTRIBUTIONS

Finalists announced for the 2016 InnovateIT Awards

Bethesda, Md. – May 11, 2016 – The Bethesda Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) today announced the finalists for the 9th Annual InnovateIT Awards. The awards honor individuals or groups whose contributions in information technology have significance beyond their organizations. The contributions represent achievements that advance business and citizen interaction, leading to improved effectiveness, cost-savings and leadership that meet national priorities and serve as a model of excellence government-wide. Winners will be announced at a luncheon on June 1, 2016 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

“Agencies are continually tasked with doing more with less, making innovation critical,” said Kavita Kalatur, VP, Award Program for AFCEA Bethesda, and President, NetImpact Strategies. “This year’s InnovateIT Awards finalists demonstrate innovative solutions that meet agency challenges. We congratulate our finalists and are excited to celebrate their accomplishments at our annual luncheon.”

The 2016 InnovateIT Awards finalists include:

Outstanding Achievement Award – Civilian
- LaVerne Council, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Earl Lawrence, Chief, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Officer and Director, UAS Integration Office, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation
- Karen Shields, Deputy Center and Operations Director, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services

Outstanding Achievement Award – Department of Defense
- LTC Mark Mellott, Chief, Execution Branch, Health IT Innovation and Advanced Technology Development Division, Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense
- David Mihelcic, Chief Technology Officer, Defense Information Systems Agency, Department of Defense
- Joe Wassel, Director, C4 Resilience and Mission Assurance, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Department of Defense
Outstanding Achievement Award – Citizen
- Tyrone Grandison, Deputy Chief Data Officer, Department of Commerce
- Lakisha Pingshaw, Broadband Manager, Prince Georges County, Maryland

Emerging Leader of the Year – Government
- Amy Gaskins, Big Data Project Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce
- Justin Herman, Manager of Government-wide Social Media and Digital Engagement Programs, Citizen Services and Innovative Technologies Office, General Services Administration
- Jeffrey McMullan, Contracting Officer, Federal Systems Integration and Management Center, General Services Administration

Emerging Leader of the Year – Industry
- Phil Agee, Partner, Attain
- April Chen, Senior Product Manager, Iron Mountain, Inc.
- Delie Minaie, Senior Associate and IT Strategist, Booz Allen Hamilton

Technology Trailblazer
- James Daniel, Public Health Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, Department of Health and Human Services
- Ryan Weil, Principal Scientist, Lockheed Martin

Mission Excellence Enabler
- Gina Clemons, Associate Commissioner, Social Security Administration
- Bob Dixon, Director, Product Technology Innovation, U.S. Postal Service
- David Torok, Associate Director, Division of Consumer Response and Operations, Federal Trade Commission

Acquisition Pioneer
- Casey Kelley, Director, Enterprise Acquisition Division, Federal Acquisition Service, General Services Administration
- Jackie Pinkston, Deputy Chief for the Contracting Operations Division – San Antonio, Procurement Directorate, Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense
- Paula Wagner, Program Manager, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security

Workforce Development Trendsetter
- Lauren Breitenother, Director of Resource Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Department of Transportation
- Kristin Davis, Branch Chief, Outreach and Recruitment Branch, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Al Munoz, IT Project Manager, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Department of Agriculture

Security Forerunner
- Susan Anderson, Assistant Section Chief, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice
- Patty Nowak, Program Manager, Attain

Finalists were selected by a committee of current and former AFCEA Bethesda Chapter board members and executive steering committee members. “We received an impressive number of qualified nominations from many large, small and cabinet-level agencies. These finalists have implemented innovative ideas and solutions through a variety of government-wide initiatives, providing exemplary models of excellence,” said Jake Brody, President-Elect, AFCEA Bethesda, and Managing Director, Accenture Federal Services.

ABOUT AFCEA BETHESDA
Founded in 1998, the AFCEA Bethesda Chapter is an educationally based, non-profit organization which encourages greater government/industry partnerships and information exchange. The Chapter fosters networking among peers in government and industry and focuses on U.S. Civilian Agencies. The Chapter holds monthly breakfast meetings, provides annual scholarships and holds an annual charity gala, A Night for the Children, which benefits the House of Ruth, Hope for Henry Foundation and Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund. AFCEA International has designated the Bethesda Chapter as a “Model Chapter of the Year” each year since 2000. For additional information please visit www.afceabethesda.org.

###