

BCNET Recognizes Community Members for their Outstanding Contributions in the Development of BC's Advanced Research Networks

VANCOUVER, BC (Sept 27, 2005) – BCNET, building high-performance networks for research and education in British Columbia, announced the winners of the 2005 Network Builders Award, a prestigious award recognizing members of the community who have made extraordinary commitments to the development of British Columbia's advanced research networks. Dave Nikolejsin, CIO, Province of BC, Thorne Won, Special Advisor, Ministry of Advanced Education and Don McWilliam, Network Engineer, BCNET were recognized for their outstanding contributions in developing British Columbia's advanced research networks. BCNET also presented a **Faculty Recognition Award** to Richard Smith, Associate Professor, SFU for his commitment and contributions to BCNET. The winners of the awards were announced at the BCNET 2005 Annual General Meeting reception held in Vancouver, BC on September 21, 2005.

Michael Hrybyk, President and CEO, BCNET presented the awards. "This year, I am honored to recognize some outstanding community members who have displayed an incredible commitment to BCNET and have provided great leadership in helping to enhance, grow and develop British Columbia's advanced research networks," said Hrybyk.

The Network Builder award is presented annually to members of the community who volunteer their time and energy to help shape the direction, expansion and enhancement of British Columbia's high-performance network backbone for research and education. Dave Nikolejsin, CIO, Province of BC, was the first recipient of the 2005 Network Builders Award for his incredible support for BCNET, and for his vision and commitment to Network BC and SPAN BC. Thorne Won was voted the recipient of the 2005 Network Builders Award for championing the expansion of advanced research networks to Kelowna, Kamloops and Surrey. Don McWilliam, an Internet pioneer, with over ten years tenure with BCNET, was voted the recipient of the 2005 Network Builder Award, for his tireless dedication and long hours building the network infrastructure.

For the first time, BCNET also presented a Faculty Recognition Award, an award given to a faculty member from a BCNET member institution that uses and promotes advanced networks in innovative and creative ways. This year the award was presented to Richard Smith, Associate Professor, SFU for his incredible energy and support on a number of BCNET initiatives as well as his creative use and promotion of advanced networks.

BCNET builds high-performance networks for British Columbia's research and education institutes - enabling connections, collaboration, and innovation by facilitating technological advancement. Collectively funded by BC's universities, federal and provincial governments, BCNET is a not-for-profit society that manages the development of the province's high-speed, dedicated Optical Regional Advanced Network (ORAN). The ORAN links researchers and educators in BC, across the country and globally and enables world-class projects in the areas of science, health, physics, and education. For more information, please visit our website at www.bc.net.

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