

NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho Labor Staff Recognized with National Awards

Two current and one former Idaho Department of Labor staff were recognized for providing vital workforce and economic development opportunities for their communities and the state at the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) annual meeting in Coeur d'Alene last week.

Award winners were nominated based on their excellence in specialties ranging from significant innovations in workforce service delivery to customer service going well beyond the typical scope of duty.

Idaho Department of Labor award winners in their specific category of recognition were:

- **Brett Richard, IT/IS manager, software development**, was awarded NASWA's Merrill Baumgardner Award for his innovative efforts with respect to workforce development information technology, especially for the iUS project - the shift from mainframe unemployment insurance system to all web-based - resulting in significant improvement of service to our customers and beyond.
- **Stacey Shegrud, workforce consultant**, was awarded NASWA's James F. Walls Employee Award for her outstanding dedication to workforce development efforts in her community by leading efforts to find re-employment for refugees with professional skills they brought from their native countries.
- **Robert Uhlenkott, Labor's former chief research officer and labor market information director**, was presented with NASWA's Vladimir Chavrid Award for excellence in labor market information research and his significant contributions to the operation and understanding of labor market information over 18 years with the state.

"These individuals and groups signify the absolute best of the best in workforce and economic development throughout the United States," said Scott Sanders, executive director of NASWA. "The significance of their contributions and innovations cannot be overstated. The extraordinary men and women recognized this year are directly responsible for the remarkable recovery from The Great Recession underway in communities all across this great nation."

More information about award recipients and categories can be found online at [2017 Salute to the Leadership Awards](#).

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