

# NASCLA 2014 AWARD WINNERS

## RHODE ISLAND BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION RECEIVE NASCLA'S 8th ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE IN CONTRACTING AWARD



**AWARD  
WINNERS!**

The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) is pleased to announce that Rhode Island Building Officials Association is the winner of the 2014 *Community Service in Contracting Award*.



This national award was created as a way for NASCLA and its many members to recognize the positive impact that contractor and construction related associations have on their communities. With this award, NASCLA showcases the countless hours and efforts that contractors and construction related associations make by raising funds, contributing time, labor and materials to charities.

The Rhode Island Building Officials Association was founded in 1960 with the purpose to foster education among its members and allow them to meet and discuss issues that all inspectors deal with on a regular basis. The association now boasts more than 140 members made up of inspectors, builders and other tradespersons. Since its founding, the association has branched out into educating their community's youth by starting an educational scholarship golf tournament providing

thousands of dollars in scholarships to the children of the association members and starting an education expo to help fund student educational opportunities.

In 2013, at one of Rhode Island Building Officials Association monthly membership meetings, the International Code Council (ICC) Eastern Regional Vice President introduced a new program called the High School Technical Training Program (HSTTP). This program development was evidence that not enough of the youth in the Warwick area were enrolling or showing interest in the building and inspection trades.

The Rhode Island Building Officials Association teamed up with the Warwick Career and Technical Center and the ICC High School Training Program director to sponsor the Warwick program by funding the initial membership fees for the school to join ICC. Within a month, all nine vocational schools in the Warwick area were being funded by the association to join ICC.

In addition to the \$1,300 in ICC membership sponsorship, the association donated \$300 to assist Warwick Career Tech in purchasing a new construction trailer for their carpentry program, and formed a mentorship program among its members so every vocational school would have a Building Official to help them succeed in the HSTTP program. Collectively, they have volunteered over eighty hours with the mentorship program and John Leyden, the State Building Code Commissioner, has provided full sets of the Rhode Island State Building Code books to all nine of the vocational schools.

The association has plans to expand their involvement by starting a separate scholarship "Tools of the Trades" which will give trade tools to a graduating senior from each of the vocational schools. They hope to extend this to more students as they reach out to partner with corporate tool companies.

Thomas DiFusco, President, Wayne Pimental, Secretary, Bruce Zaloudek, Treasurer, Al DeCorte and Peter Scorpio, Executive Board Members of the Rhode Island Building Officials Association accepted NASCLA's Community Service in Contracting Award on Tuesday, August 26th at NASCLA's 52nd Annual Conference at the Viking Hotel in Newport, Rhode Island.



NASCLA President, George Whalen, presenting the Rhode Island Building Officials Association President, Thomas DiFusco, the 2014 Community Service in Contracting Award.



NASCLA President, George Whalen, (3rd from left) with the Rhode Island Building Officials Association Officers/Executive Board.

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## NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATION IN REGULATION



**AWARD  
WINNERS!**

The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) presented the *2014 Innovation in Regulation Award* to the Nevada State Contractors Board on August 26, 2014, at the association's 52nd Annual Conference at the Hotel Viking in Newport, Rhode Island.

NASCLA created this national award to recognize a NASCLA state member who has showcased innovation, creativity and excellence for the purpose of maintaining fair and balanced regulation of the construction industry. Margi Grein, Executive Officer with the Nevada State Contractors Board, accepted the award.

In 2012, the Nevada State Contractors Board partnered with the Home Depot and various building department officials to launch a building permit kiosk inside select Home Depot stores in Southern Nevada. This kiosk housed a tailored information technology system that linked each jurisdiction's system, enabling a contractor to pull permits from multiple jurisdictions in a one-stop location. This system interacts with the technology from each jurisdiction ensuring transfer of payment, documents, and user information is done with



PermitsUSA Kiosk



Margi Grein acknowledged and thanked Charles Hickey and Stephen Thompson, representatives from The Home Depot at the NASCLA Annual Conference for their support.

the highest confidentiality and time-sensitive standards. The positive results of PermitsUSA have led to the expansion of these kiosks into other states throughout the country. The kiosks look to expand the types of permits to be made available for purchase including plumbing, HVAC, gas and electric, fence, patio, patio covers and more. By the end of 2015, Home Depot anticipates expansion of PermitsUSA to Florida and Oregon.

In addition to the development of PermitsUSA, the Nevada State Contractors Board recognized the need to go mobile and make its resources readily available in a mobile app. While the concept of a mobile application in not innovative in and of itself, it is the resources available within it that are unique to what contractor boards have made available in the past. Consumers can search a contractor's license information based on the license number, name, business name or disciplinary action. This app also allows consumers to report

unlicensed activity by simply completely a few write-in fields and then they are submitted electronically directly to NSCB investigations personnel for review. No more hard copy complaint forms or navigating through pages of the website to complete the online form. Within the first few months of its implementation, the NSCB mobile application has been downloaded by over 300 individuals, and this number continues to grow as word of the application expands. Users have reported positive feedback, expressing appreciation for the modified format and quick access and reporting of information. The Nevada State Contractors Board will be looking for ways to increase the resource options on the app, including possible reporting of licensed contractors, license renewal options, and consumer information.



Margi Grein, Executive Director of the Nevada State Contractors Board with George Whalen, NASCLA President.