

Oregon Connections Excellence in Telecommunications Awards and Recipients

Category #1: Excellence in Telecommunications Applications

Individual, organization or company that has developed and/or successfully implemented an innovative telecommunications application that demonstrates standard communications capabilities, scalable solutions to accommodate growth in demand, and/or adaptability to new applications and opportunities.

- 2021 Recipient: Ashland Fiber Network*
- 2017 Recipient: Shawn Irvine, City of Independence*
- 2015 Recipient: Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI)*
- 2012 Recipient: Oregon Health and Science University*
- 2011 Recipient: LS Networks*
- 2011 Recipient: Bend Broadband Vault*
- 2009 Recipient: Don Westlight of Oregon Health & Science University and the Oregon Health Network*
- 2007 Recipient: Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems Research and Education Foundation*
- 2006 Recipient: Central Oregon Independent Practice Association*
- 2005 Recipient: One-Economy Corporation*
- 2004 Recipient: Telehealth Alliance of Oregon*
- 2003 Recipient: Frank Miller, Oregon Trail Internet*
- 2002 Recipient: Pioneer Library System (La Grande), Patricia Cutright*
- 2001 Recipient: Tom Cook, Oregon Public Education Network*

Category #2: Excellence in Telecommunications Projects and Regional/Local Strategies

Individual, organization or company that has developed innovative projects or strategies to provide better access, reliability and/or affordability to telecommunications services for underserved and rural regions.

- 2021 Recipient: Ziplly Fiber*
- 2021 Recipient: Jeff Rhoden*
- 2021 Recipient: Oregon Internet Response*
- 2021 Recipient: Blue Mountain Networks*
- 2021 Recipient: Zayo*
- 2019 Recipient: BendTel*
- 2018 Recipient: Mid-Columbia Economic Development District*
- 2018 Recipient: Dan Bubb, Gorge Networks*
- 2018 Recipient: Eastern Oregon Net, Inc.*
- 2016 Recipient: City of Eugene, EWEB, TAO, and LCOG*
- 2016 Recipient: Innovate Oregon, Dayton School District, and Online NW*
- 2015 Recipient: Sherman County*
- 2014 Recipient: Hunter Communications*
- 2014 Recipient: Lane County Area Public Agency Network*
- 2014 Recipient: Chris Burns, Charter Communications*

2013 Recipient: *NetCity, Inc.*
2013 Recipient: *Steve Noel, SWIC, State of Oregon*
2012 Recipient: *David Crowe, Network for Education and Research in Oregon (NERO)*
2012 Recipient: *SandyNet, City of Sandy*
2011 Recipient: *Keith Grunberg, Charter Communications*
2011 Recipient: *John Irwin, J Irwin Community Informatics Consulting*
2011 Recipient: *Oregon Health Network*
2010 Recipient: *Oregon Municipal Audit Review Committee*
2009 Recipient: *Hunter Communications, Central Point, Oregon*
2008 Recipients: *City of Lebanon, Phillip Barker of Curry County, and Verizon*
2007 Recipients: *Keith Grunberg and Bradley Kuhnert, both of Charter Communications*
2006 Recipient: *John Stadter, ComSpanUSA*
2005 Recipient: *City of The Dalles/Q-Life Project*
2004 Recipient: *Century Tel*
2003 Recipient: *Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs*
2002 Recipient: *Ben Doty, NoaNet Oregon*
2001 Recipient: *Dave Sabala, Douglas Electric Cooperative*

Category #3: Excellence in Telecommunications Partnerships

Individual, organization or company that has developed an innovative telecommunications partnership for the purpose of providing improved access, reliability and/or affordability for underserved and rural communities.

2021 Recipient: *Keith Grunbert*
2021 Recipient: *Douglas Fast Net and Hunter Communications*
2021 Recipient: *Link Oregon*
2019 Recipient: *Windwave*
2018 Recipient: *Digital Inclusion Network*
2018 Recipient: *Q-Life, City of Maupin, and LS Networks*
2016 Recipient: *Duke Dexter*
2014 Recipient: *MINET*
2012 Recipient: *Derek Abrams of Oregon State University and Sean McSpaden of State of Oregon*
2012 Recipient: *Warm Springs Telecom*
2011 Recipient: *Tamer Kirac*
2010 Recipient: *Rio Networks*
2009 Recipient: *Marsha Spellman and Adam Haas of Converge Communications*
2008 Recipient: *Michael Weidman of LS Networks*
2006 Recipient: *Greg Palser, CoastCom*
2005 Recipient: *Agnes Box, Oregon Institute of Technology; and Bob Hensley, Cal-Ore Telephone Company for the Klamath Falls/OIT Open Access Hut project.*
2004 Recipient: *Rich Ryan, Hunter Communications*
2003 Recipient: *Ed Parker, ORTCC and CoastNet*

Category #4: Excellence in Telecommunications Legislation or Policy

Individual or organization that has participated in writing and advocating for legislation that will have a significant impact on rural telecommunications. Legislator or elected representative that has effectively introduced or advocated for innovation in legislation or policy that has positively impacted access, reliability, and/or affordability of rural telecommunications services.

2021 Recipient: Ted Case

2019 Recipient: Oregon State Representative Pam Marsh

2017 Recipient: Governor Kate Brown

2015 Recipient: Senate Bill 144 Work Group

2013 Recipient: Oregon State Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

2011 Recipient: Oregon State Representative Phil Barnhart

2007 Recipient: Telehealth Alliance of Oregon

2006 Recipient: Mary Beth Henry, City of Portland/Mt. Hood Regulatory Commission

2005 Recipient: Rob Myers, Tri-County Communications and the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council

2003 Recipient: Representative Laurie Monnes-Anderson, Gresham; and Alice Nelson, Pendleton

2001 Recipient: Senator David Nelson, Pendleton

Category #5: Outstanding Telecommunications Advocate

Individual that has made a significant contribution or gone beyond the call of duty to advocate for improved access, reliability and affordability of telecommunications.

2021 Recipient: InterMountain Education Service District Technology Services

2019 Recipient: John Huffman, State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture RUS

2017 Recipient: Matt Hiefield, Beaverton School District

2017 Recipient: Commissioner Ken Kestner, Lake County

2016 Recipient: Eric Rosenberry

2015 Recipient: Jeremy Pietzold, City of Sandy Council President

2013 Recipient: Eric Schmidt, Association of Oregon Counties

2012 Recipient: Rich Bader, EasyStreet Online Services

2011 Recipient: Bob Jenks, Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon

2010 Recipient: Shay Dakan, Oregon State University

2010 Recipient: Milo Mecham, Lane Council of Governments

2009 Recipient: Ray Baum of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon

2008 Recipient: Pam Berrian of the City of Eugene

2007 Recipient: Jack Crider, President of Tillamook Lightwave

2006 Recipient: Onno Husing, Oregon Coast Zone Management Association

2005 Recipients: Link Shadley, ANKI Solutions and Chris Tamarin, Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

2004 Recipient: Shayne Maxwell, Southern Oregon EAS Region

2003 Recipients: John Irwin, ORTCC and SOTTC; and Ron Trullinger, Qwest

2002 Recipient: Cathy Britain, RodeoNet

2001 Recipient: Cindy Weeldreyer, Lane County Commissioner/ Fiber South Consortium Chair

Category #6: Edwin B. Parker Enduring Achievement Award

This award is presented to individuals whose contributions in telecommunications have been rendered with the greatest civility, who serve as a role model and mentor to many, and who have provided a lasting legacy influencing for years to come the course and future of telecommunications in Oregon.

2021 Recipient: Brant Wolf
2019 Recipient: Don Patten
2018 Recipient: Joseph Franell
2018 Recipient: Todd Way
2017 Recipient: Jim Teece
2016 Recipient: Greg Palser
2016 Recipient: Richard Ryan
2015 Recipient: Milo Mecham
2015 Recipient: Chris Tamarin
2014 Recipient: Pam Berrian
2014 Recipient: John Irwin
2014 Recipient: Dave Sabala
2013 Recipient: Cathy Britain
2011 Recipient: Ray Baum
2011 Recipient: Keith A. Mobley
2010 Recipient: Amy Tykeson
2009 Recipient: Curt Pederson
2009 Recipient: Ginny Lang
2009 Recipient: State Senator David Nelson

Other Award Recipients:

2021 Lifetime Achievement Award: Christopher Tamarin
2015 20th Anniversary All-Stars Award: Mike Dewey
2015 20th Anniversary All-Stars Award: Steve Eldrige
2015 20th Anniversary All-Stars Award: David Olson
*2009 Economic Development through Telecommunications: Chris Tamarin of the
Oregon Business Development Department*
2008 Lifetime Achievement Award: Agnes Box, Oregon Institute of Technology
2005 Enduring Achievement Award: Ben Doty, Telecommunications Advocate; Q-Life, CoastNet
*2004 Enduring Achievement Award: Ed Parker, Parker Telecommunications and
Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council*
*2004 Enduring Achievement Award: Mike Johnson, Deschutes National Forest,
COTel Chair and Founder*
2004 Legislative Champion Award: Bill Penhollow, Association of Oregon Counties
2003 Lifetime Achievement Award: PUC Chair Joan Smith
2003 Lifetime Achievement Award: Terry Edvalson, Edvalson and Associates
*2001 Excellence in Telecommunications Opportunities and Initiatives: Eric Alexander, Connecting
Oregon Communities Board/ St. Charles Medical Center (Bend)*