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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**



PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG Awards Regional Citizens for Contributions to East Texas

Five East Texans Honored at Board of Directors Meeting

Kilgore, TX, March 29, 2010: ETCOG honored regional citizens who exemplify excellence in performance, innovation, and contributions to the community at its 80th Semi-Annual Board of Director's Meeting on Thursday, March 25, at Kiepersol Bushman's Event Center in Bullard, Texas (Photos Available). Award criteria and recipient information is as follows:

REGIONAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

This award is designed to honor a citizen of East Texas who has contributed to the well being of the East Texas Region. Roland Lindsey of Bodacious BBQ is the recipient of the Regional Citizen of the Year award for his commitment to the community.

REGIONAL CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Regional Corporate Citizen of the Year award honors a corporate partner in East Texas that has contributed to the well being of the East Texas Region. The Genecov Group in Tyler, Texas was selected as the 2010 award recipient.

REGIONAL STATESMANSHIP AWARD

The Regional Statesmanship Award recognizes a local, state, or federal official that has demonstrated valuable dedicated service to regional cooperation. John Paul Tallent, former Mayor of Gladewater, was selected for this award for his dedication to regionalism and exemplification of a servant's heart.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE SERVICE AWARD

The Regional Committee Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a sustained, dedicated commitment to ETCOG efforts and activities. Arnie Spiers of Champion EMS in Tyler was chosen for his service through the ETCOG Homeland Security Advisory Committee.

ETCOG EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ETCOG Employee of the Year is nominated and voted on by ETCOG Staff and the top three candidates are presented to the ETCOG Selection Committee for consideration. Beverly Brown was selected as this year's

recipient. Beverly has been with ETCOG since 2004 as the Aging Contract Manager. Beverly has gone above and beyond in her position managing the Senior Nutrition Program pilot project in Yantis, Hainesville and Emory.

The Semi-Annual Board of Directors meeting also recognized ETCOG employees serving 30 or more years with the organization. For more information, contact ETCOG's Executive Director, David Cleveland, at (903)984-8641 x221.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.