



PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG to Award Regional Citizens for Contributions to East Texas

Five East Texans to be Honored at Board of Directors Meeting

Rusk, TX, March 19, 2013: ETCOG will honor regional citizens who exemplify excellence in performance, innovation, and contributions to the community at its 86th Semi-Annual Board of Director's Meeting on Thursday, March 21, at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Rusk, TX, from 11:45 am to 2:00 pm. Award criteria and recipient information is as follows:

REGIONAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – SANDY HILLIARD OF CANTON, TEXAS

This award is designed to honor a citizen of East Texas who has contributed to the well being of the East Texas Region.

REGIONAL CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT TYLER

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.

REGIONAL STATESMANSHIP AWARD – JUDGE BILL STOUTD, GREGG COUNTY

The Regional Statesmanship Award recognizes a local, state, or federal official that has demonstrated valuable dedicated service to regional cooperation.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE SERVICE AWARD – DIANE ISHAM, CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Regional Committee Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a sustained, dedicated commitment to ETCOG efforts and activities.

ETCOG EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD – GARY ALLEN

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. Gary Allen was selected as this year's recipient. Gary began his work at ETCOG in 1987 and serves as the Planning & Economic Development Services Team Leader in the Workforce & Economic Development division.

Details of award recipient contributions and photos will be sent following the meeting. 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.