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ARIZONA'S G&T COOPERATIVES HONORED WITH WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Cooperatives recognized for best practices, commitment to employees and education

BENSON – The Human Resources (HR) Department for Arizona's G&T Cooperatives is being recognized as one of the best HR departments in a Southern Arizona company with not just one but two prestigious awards in the annual 2010 Workplace Excellence Awards of Greater Tucson, sponsored by Tucson Newspapers and the Society for Human Resource Management of Greater Tucson.

The Department received the Judges Choice Award for its overall HR practices, including the Cooperative's Wellness Program, Succession Management program and its High School Engineering Recruitment program.

It also received the Trend Setter Award for a company of 151 to 500 employees for the High School Engineering Recruitment program.

The recognition is also significant in light of the fact that there were almost 200 nominees, 15 finalists and only seven awards given.

Arizona's G&T Cooperatives include Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (AEPCO), which owns and operates the 600 megawatt (gross) Apache Generating Station at Cochise, Arizona, west of Benson, and Southwest Transmission Cooperative, Inc., which transmits the wholesale power to six Member Cooperatives in southeast Arizona, Mohave County and Bullhead City in northwest Arizona, and Anza, California. The HR Department is a part of Sierra Southwest Cooperative Services, Inc. (Sierra) which is also one of Arizona's G&T Cooperatives and provides all HR, staffing and other support for all three Cooperatives.



Arizona's G&T Cooperatives

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Bob Hewlett, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Sierra, pointed out that the HR Department has been nominated several times.

“The superior quality of our workplace environment was thus recognized previously,” Hewlett said.

“Now, however, having won not only one award but two, it is clear that Sierra’s efforts to be responsive to our employees while at the same time demonstrating an exemplary work effort, has been recognized in a unique and very satisfying way,” Hewlett said.

Emery Silvester, manager of administrative services for Arizona’s G&T Cooperatives and manager of the HR department, said the awards “are really recognition of a great team effort our department and the Cooperatives demonstrate every day.”

“These awards are really about our people and I think show that we’ve got a workforce that is committed to our cooperatives at the same time we’re committed to them,” Silvester said.

The awards were given during a special ceremony Wednesday at the Westin La Paloma resort in Tucson, AZ.

For more information about the 2010 Workplace Awards of Greater Tucson, visit their website at www.tucson.com/workplaceexcellence.

Arizona’s G&T Cooperatives are headquartered in Benson, Arizona. They employ 306 people and provide wholesale power through their member distribution cooperatives to more than 144,000 residential, commercial and business customers.

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