

GMIS International 2024 Awards Press Release

GMIS International recognized excellence in public sector IT projects and leadership during the Annual Awards Ceremony held in conjunction with GMIS MEETS. GMIS International is pleased to announce its 2024 public sector IT award winners.

The GMIS Outstanding Professional Award was presented to Andrew Darrow, City of Manhattan, Kansas. This annual award recognizes IT professionals whose meritorious performance is representative of service delivery excellence in the public sector. Andrew's accomplishments over the past year have significantly enhanced the City's technological capabilities and interdepartmental relationships. He spearheaded the creation of an IT Strategic Plan, incorporating input from all departments, and introduced additional security measures such as DarkTrace, CrowdStrike, and Duo to bolster cyber threat detection and defense. Furthermore, he optimized equipment procurement, resulting in \$34K in hardware savings through bulk ordering. Andrew also expanded the IT division, securing approval for three new positions, including a CIO role, thus elevating IT's influence within the organization. Additionally, he centralized GIS functions under the IT Department, establishing a new GIS and EAM Division and securing resources for an EAM Team to manage city assets. These initiatives, alongside the adoption of the IT Strategic Plan, have propelled IT's budget from \$79K (excluding salaries) in 2021 to over \$2 million in 2024. Most recently, Andrew collaborated with the Finance Director to lead the RFP and negotiation processes for a new ERP solution to replace the outdated AS400 system.

The GMIS Best Practices Award was presented to Elkhart County, Indiana for their ITSM Processes and ServiceNow Implementation Project. This business case outlines the detailed approach taken for the IT Service Management (ITSM) processes and the ServiceNow implementation project within our organization. The primary objective of this project was to enhance our IT service delivery, improve operational efficiency, and ensure transparency across IT services. This document provides a comprehensive overview of the key phases and activities involved, including selecting the right application and implementation partner, defining processes, identifying critical services for the employee service portal, training IT and end users, go-live preparation, and leveraging reporting and analytics post-implementation.

GMIS International also recognized the City of Auburn, Alabama for their Unified IT Work Management Solution Project, the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas for their Special Event Permit Consolidation, the City of St. George, Utah for their 5 Year Technology Plan, the City of Southgate, Michigan for their Cyber Security Posture Enhancement Project, Fort Valley State University, Georgia for their Student iPad Project, and the Kansas Information Security Office for their Operational Technology Essential Bridging the Gap between IT and OT for Water and Wastewater Project.

The Champion Chapter Award is presented to the GMIS State Chapter that has furthered the overall goals of GMIS International, including participation in GMIS activities, excellence in activities at the state chapter level, and membership growth and retention. ***The Indiana Chapter was presented with this year's award.***

The President's Award was given by GMIS International President, Mike Leiker, to Felina Harris, Department of Information Technology, North Carolina. This esteemed recognition is a testament to her outstanding dedication, unwavering commitment, and remarkable contributions to GMIS International and NCLGISA. Felina has consistently exhibited exemplary

leadership, innovative thinking, and a profound impact on GMIS International. Her remarkable achievements have not only elevated her own career but have also significantly enriched the experiences of our members. Felina embodies the very essence of excellence that we strive for in GMIS International, and I am thrilled to acknowledge her remarkable accomplishments with this well-deserved accolade.

The Hershel Strickland Award honors the memory of contributions made by Hershel Strickland to all aspects of GMIS. **This year's recipient of the Hershel Strickland Award is Clark Rainer, Office of the Attorney General, Georgia.** Clark is the Chief Information Officer for the Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr Operations, Georgia Department of Law. Clark has been a member of GMIS since 1996. He has served as the International Director on the GMIS International Board since 2011, and he has served on several GMIS Committees throughout the years including the Accreditation and Innovations Committees. Clark has been instrumental to the Accreditation program efforts. Clark has more recently spearheaded a new membership tier program that is currently in the works as an added benefit to GMIS Members. Clark has also served on the Georgia GMIS Board, and he was President of Georgia GMIS from 2010 – 2011. Through his tireless efforts, he has helped to continue the mission supporting our members. Clark always goes above and beyond. He is a shining example of what a public servant should be!

The GMIS Rising Star Award recognizes GMIS members who showcase leadership skills and behavior and have shown real growth within their organizations within the past year. Individuals obtaining this award demonstrate potential for stepping into leadership positions within their organization and the Government Information Technology arena. **This year, GMIS awarded Stephanie Conley, Bryan County Sheriff's Office, Georgia.** Since joining the Sheriff's Office in March 2022, Stephanie has shown incredible leadership and a proactive approach to solving challenges. Her innovative solutions and collaboration efforts have made a big impact on our operational efficiency and security. She's always learning and ready to take on more responsibilities, showing great potential as a future leader in Government Information Technology. Major Projects and Accomplishments: Over the past year, Stephanie has led some game-changing projects. She was behind the installation of a new security camera system for the Sheriff's Office and Jail, replacing old analog cameras with modern technology to boost our safety and surveillance. This project was completed in February 2024. Stephanie also spearheaded the integration of 5G Cradlepoint modems into our new vehicles, improving connectivity and management. She played a key role in transitioning our department to the SSI software system, modernizing our CAD for the 911 Center and MDTs for deputy vehicles. Plus, she moved us fully to Microsoft 365, making our operations smoother and more secure.

The GMIS Diamond Award was presented to **Granicus** for their continued long-term support of GMIS International. **The GMIS Ruby Award** was presented to **ThinkGard** for their on-going support of GMIS International.

The GMIS G2 Awards honors government in fulfilling its mission is expected to collaborate with and serve other entities. This award recognizes the GMIS member agencies whose IT projects exhibit the best in G2B (Business), G2C (Citizens), and G2G (Government) categories.

The **G2B (Business) Award** was received by:
Fort Valley State University, Georgia – Rural Broadband and Fiber Expansion

The **G2C (Citizens) Award** was received by:
Clayton County, Georgia – Community Development Assistant Project
Columbia County, Georgia – Green Guide
City of Tifton, Georgia – Revitalization of the Tift Theatre

The **G2G (Government) Award** was received by:
Henry County, Georgia – Armis Asset Intelligence Deployment

GMIS International would like to congratulate all the recipients of these prestigious awards!