



Bay County SHRM Selected as Pinnacle Award Winner for 2019 by National HR Organization

In a Time of Disaster, Local HR Professionals Come to the Aid of their Community

Panama City, Fla. (October 30, 2019) – The Bay County Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) has been chosen by the national organization of SHRM for its Pinnacle Award—the highest honor given to SHRM state councils and chapters for notable contributions to the human resource profession.

The Bay County SHRM chapter was recognized for its innovative and impactful program, “Hurricane Michael Outreach and Recovery Efforts,” that supported devastated chapter members in the wake of Hurricane Michael, a Category Five storm that destroyed many homes and businesses in the Bay County area one year ago.

“We took an unexpected, chapter crippling challenge and turned it into an opportunity for our chapter to rise to the occasion,” said Stephanie Conn, MS, SHRM-SCP, SPHR and president-elect of the Bay County SHRM. “Our efforts resulted in the coordination of all resources to support our membership's immediate needs.”

The Bay County SHRM leaders worked together to reach out to members with the goal to support them knowing that when natural disaster strikes, human resource professionals also play a critical part in the emergency response efforts of their workplaces.

“Many of them were so busy taking care of others that they were neglecting to take care of themselves,” said Conn.

As part of its response, the Bay County SHRM chapter organized a Free Hurricane Recovery Meeting offering a panel of subject matter experts that provided additional resources to area HR professionals. In addition, in cooperation with its community partners, the Bay County SHRM chapter hosted a free Mental Health First Aid Certification Class to assist the Bay County HR professionals with recognizing and addressing some of the mental health issues the community and its employees were facing.

“We are very thankful for the support that we received from our partner chapters in the state, the HR Florida State Council, as well as the NCSHRM State Council,” added Conn. “Without their support and encouragement, we would have not been in a position to assist and serve the HR

professionals in our area when they needed it most.” HR Florida district director Tammie Eldred and the HR Florida past president Lynnette Holsinger joined the local chapter to distribute supplies.

“The Bay County HR Florida chapter of SHRM makes each of us proud with its superb resourcefulness to meet, and even exceed, the needs of its community during one of the worst hurricanes to hit the area,” said Heather Deyrieux, MSM, SHRM-SCP, SPHR and president of HR Florida. “I am thrilled the chapter’s efforts were recognized by SHRM, our national HR organization.”

Always thinking about its community, the Bay County SRHM chapter plans to donate the \$1,000 prize that accompanies this prestigious award to a local non-profit to help with the rebuilding efforts of their city.

Created in 1991, the Pinnacle Award is the most prestigious achievement SHRM state councils and chapters can attain, and it honors programs that exceed the standard activities of SHRM local networks in enhancing HR management. This year, there were 75 entries for this distinguished award, with 12 winners submitting innovative projects created and implemented by their SHRM chapter or state council.



Photo L-R: Traci Powell, Encompass HR Director; Stephanie Conn, Bay County SHRM President Elect; Tammie Eldred, District Director and Lynnette Holsinger, HR FL State Council Past President

About HR Florida State Council

Representing over 15,000 individual human resource professionals, the HR Florida State Council is the state affiliate for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). HR Florida is a 100 percent volunteer entity consisting of 28 SHRM affiliated chapters across the state. The Council's primary objective is to support the mission and initiatives of SHRM. HR Florida coordinates professional development efforts and serve as the conduit for communication among SHRM and chapters as well as at-large members. For more information visit www.hrflorida.org.

About the Society for Human Resource Management

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is the world's largest HR professional society, representing 300,000 members in more than 165 countries. For nearly seven decades, the Society has been the leading provider of resources serving the needs of HR professionals and advancing the practice of human resource management. SHRM has more than 575 affiliated chapters within the United States and subsidiary offices in China, India and United Arab Emirates. Visit us at shrm.org and @SHRM.

About Bay County SHRM

Bay County SHRM, Inc. is an affiliation of skilled professionals with a common interest in human resources development and employment law. The purpose of the Bay County SHRM is to provide training opportunities to business professionals. We are an affiliate chapter of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and a local chapter of HR Florida State Council. Visit us at <http://www.hrma.memberlodge.org/>