

TAGITM Announces Rising Star Award Winner

The Texas Association of Governmental Information Technology Managers (TAGITM) announced the City of Grand Prairie Chief Information Officer, Keshnel Penny as the recipient of the 2018 Rising Star Award at its annual conference April 24 in San Antonio.

The Rising Star Award is presented to a member of the organization who has demonstrated the potential for stepping into leadership positions within the organization and the Government Information Technology arena. Nominees are evaluated in the areas of leadership skills and behavior, innovative and effective use of technology, organizational strategy alignment and their ability to manage change.

Keshnel Penny is a very immersive and motivational leader. As the Chief Information Officer for the City of Grand Prairie, he is a major advocate of open communication, making sure that everyone knows, understands and lives the vision that he holds for the IT Department. Keshnel was given one mission by the City Manager when he took the job, to help make Grand Prairie into a world class City by building an exceptional IT Department. “We want to be a world class IT Department that other cities can look to for inspiration,” is the commitment that Keshnel shares daily with his team. Since his appointment almost two years ago, the department has definitely seen a positive progression towards that goal. The overhaul of the City’s radio system, improvement of the reliability of backup systems, increased end user satisfaction, a reorganization and standardization of the department, and the implementation of both physical and cybersecurity measures across the City are just a few examples of the improvements made by Keshnel. As a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army, Keshnel served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Utilizing a transformational leadership style that he acquired from his time in the military, Keshnel acts a role model. He is not only a dedicated and passionate leader, but a hard-working member of the team as well. Duty, respect, and integrity are some of the Army values that Keshnel lives by and exhibits. If it gets the department closer to success and growth, he never has a problem working alongside his team. Creating a tight knit unit and working so closely enables Keshnel to observe the IT team at work. This gives him the opportunity to analyze everyone’s strengths and weaknesses and make adjustments as needed to employ the different skill sets in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

About TAGITM

The Texas Association of Governmental Information Technology Managers (TAGITM) began in 1978 as the Texas Association of Governmental Data Processing Managers. The name of the organization was changed in 2000. A not-for-profit organization, TAGITM provides information systems professionals a forum for generating ideas, sharing problems and developing solutions. Its purpose is to enable Texas cities, counties, school districts and appraisal districts to realize the full potential of automation benefits.

Contact: Sid Hudson, TAGITM President, 512-220-4295, info@tagitm.org