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TribalNet 11th Annual Conference
Increased attendance- tribal organizations, all-star speakers & top technology industry providers gathered at TribalNet 11

Sault Ste. Marie, MI, October 25, 2010 – For attendees at the 11th Annual TribalNet Conference, the first week in October was a bit like ringing in the New Year. "Attendance increased, interest was up and energy was high," states Shannon Bouschor, TribalNet Director/Coordinator, "The agenda put together by the advisory board this year really nailed down key topics that are relevant across the industry for many tribal organizations and enterprises no matter how big or small." At the annual conference, an event primarily focused on topics dealing with technology at tribal organizations, casinos and enterprises, the week was filled with overall positive energy and a much more optimistic outlook than seen in 2009.

The week kicked off with a meet and greet event like no other, the popular and exclusive Lake Tahoe Dinner Cruise. Attendees and vendors had the opportunity to gather together in a fun and relaxing environment, Ida Wilcox of Intertribal Software Consultants commented, "Great event, it felt like seeing family again." Networking opportunities at this annual conference are well known to be an asset of attending.

Breakout sessions were held during the week that focused specifically on varying areas of technology within a tribe. Topics were highlighted within areas of tribal government such as; Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Preservation of Tribal Heritage, Tribal Priorities within the National Broadband Plan & Enterprise Content Management. The casino track focused on sessions dealing with technology in use at casino operations nationwide. IT leaders, Marketing Directors and Management could all benefit from topics included on this track including sessions such as; Business Intelligence, Server Based Gaming, Social Media, Player Tracking, & Customer Driven Technologies. Leaders within health IT, something that's a large part of many tribal government divisions, had their own hot topics this year that included; Electronic Health Records, Meaningful Use Requirements, HITECH & IT Security. Within the general IT track there were sessions focused on management topics such as; Best Practices for Staffing IT, Tribal Technology Steering Committees & Project Management. A separate focus on that same track was on the more technical aspects of IT such as; Building a Data Center, Virtualization and Cloud Computing and the standing room only session presented by Chris Hurley and expert and representative from Chickasaw Nation Industries, Protecting Your Network- Inside the Mind of a Professional Hacker. The agenda of course wouldn't be complete without the morning keynote presentations which both had speakers that delivered outstanding and motivating material. Several attendees commented on sessions from the week- "I gained insight through other tribe's experience that could save my tribe serious money", "attending this session gave me a look at the speakers 1st hand knowledge of what works and what hurdles to anticipate- beneficial to hear", "kept me engaged and wanting more".

During the week as attendees were enjoying the sessions and events it was important to take a moment to recognize achievement amongst this tight-knit community. The 3rd Annual Tribal Technology Leadership Award was presented and with an added twist for 2010. "This year we are giving away two awards instead of one. During our discussion to determine the winner we narrowed our choices down to two organizations that are in two extremely different stages of development, both well deserving for very different reasons," stated Michael Day, TribalNet Founder and Chairman of the Advisory Boards. Josh Oshiro, Network Administrator from the Trinidad Rancheria IT Department accepted the honorable mention award on behalf of his IT team and stressed how they, as a small crew have taken what recently was only pieced together and costly technology and restructured it into forming an actual department with a clear direction and improved infrastructure, saving the tribe money while improving efficiencies. Following his acceptance, the winner of the prestigious award for 2010, the Viejas Information Technology Services Team was announced and Ram Patrachari, VP of IT accepted on behalf of his IT team. Viejas, a tribal organization with an overall solid strategic vision and continuous creative innovation impacting the technology industry are well deserving recipients for 2010. Both Oshiro and Patrachari were extremely thankful to receive the honor and excited about returning to their properties to share the award with their team.

TribalNet also held a two-day trade show that allowed vendors and attendees to connect one-on-one and discuss technology solutions that can positively impact tribes, health centers, casinos and enterprises nationwide. Several vendors commented but Ginelle Osworth of CA Technologies summed up her experience well similar to what many other vendors had to say, "As a vendor it was so nice to have the opportunity to hear about the challenges of the tribes and their strong desire to want to improve and share their successes." The value of the gathering of so many key industry individuals is what really makes this conference a must-attend event. Several attendees had positive comments about the trade-show experience as well and noted how beneficial the vendor networking was for them this year. The two-day trade show featured 50+ vendors focused on technology products and services for the Native American government, health and gaming industries.

TribalNet is pleased to announce that the 2011 conference will be held at a tribally owned facility, the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona from November 14-17, 2011. Registration and information is available online at www.tribalnetonline.com.

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