



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 13, 2024

CONTACT: Nicole Allen, VP
allen@eteconline.org
865.483.4577

East Tennessee Economic Council Annual Event Features State of TN ECD Commissioner, Elected Officials, and Award Winners

OAK RIDGE, TENN. Dec. 13 – At today’s Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration, the East Tennessee Economic Council (ETEC) named two new recipients of the Muddy Boot Award and presented a Postma Young Professional Medal. Nearly 500 attendees heard remarks from the State of Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner, Stuart McWhorter, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, and Tennessee’s Lt. Governor Randy McNally.

The Muddy Boot Award is a tribute to individuals who through their work and community activities make East Tennessee a stronger region. Dave Beck, Vice President of Program Integration for Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS); and, Bill Tindal, President of Omega Technical Services were named the newest members of the ‘Order of the Muddy Boot’.



The Muddy Boot Award was established 50 years ago to honor individuals who have gone above the call of duty — like those who served the nation during the Manhattan Project during adverse conditions, sometimes actual rivers of mud — to make the community, the state of Tennessee, and the nation a better place to live and work. From 1973-2024, 107 people have received the award.

The Postma Young Professional Medal was presented to a deserving young professional who is making a difference in her workplace and in the community. Christy Drewry, Senior Nuclear Safety Engineer at the Y-12 Field Office for the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) received the Postma Medal for 2024. She is the 28th recipient of the award.



In 2005 ETEC established the Postma Medal to honor the accomplishments of young professionals who have made an impact and fostered a community culture in the region. Former Oak Ridge National Laboratory director Herman Postma epitomized this spirit during his life; and his wife, Pat continues the tradition of service today through her involvement in the Oak Ridge community.

A full list of recipients and more information about both awards can be found on the [ETEC website](#).

ETEC President Tracy Boatner said, “This year’s winners exemplify the spirit of both awards through their selfless service and dedication to the federal missions in the Oak Ridge community. They inspire others to greatness and like the leaders during the Manhattan Project, they embrace challenges as opportunities to serve the nation. Congratulations Dave, Bill, and Christy!”

Dave Beck

Gordon Fee who received the Muddy Boot Award in the year 2000 when he was President of Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, presented the award to Dave Beck.

Beck is the Vice President of Program Integration for CNS, which is responsible for the management and operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Beck's organization provides planning, budgeting and program management for CNS missions and integrates customer requirements and budgets with internal CNS organizations to plan and execute work.



Prior to his work at Y-12, Beck held multiple director positions at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). As deputy principal associate director of Weapons Programs at LANL, Beck was the project lead of the Nuclear Security Enterprise Integration Council. In this role, he established projects across eight sites on behalf of the NNSA to foster coordination and improve productivity. Beck's experience also includes a stint as the NNSA assistant deputy administrator for Military Applications and Stockpile Operations, which involved program management oversight of directed stockpile work. In this role, he managed and oversaw production operations at seven of the eight NNSA sites, with more than 12,000 contractor employees and a \$2.5 billion annual budget for operations.

Beck's efforts to secure the success of Y-12 goes beyond his present-day work. In the late 1990s, Beck, a long-time supporter of ETEC, worked with former ETEC President Jim Campbell to develop a strategic plan that focused on advocacy to rebuild Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Y-12 National Security Complex, as well as accelerate cleanup operations across the DOE reservation. That plan included the Uranium Processing Facility, which is currently under construction at Y-12. Dave was also there at the start of the Tennessee Valley Corridor (TVC) and continues to play a role in the organization's activities, including its annual summit meetings.

Nominator Rich Tighe, President and CEO of CNS, said "By any standard, Dave Beck has a proven track record of success and positive impact across the Nuclear Security Enterprise, and particularly, in Oak Ridge."

Bill Tindal

Bill Tindal, President of Omega Technical Services was presented the Muddy Boot Award by Sherry Browder. Browder is the President & CEO of Pro2Serve. She received her Muddy Boot Award in 2018 when she was the Reindustrialization Manager for UCOR, then, URS | CH2M Oak Ridge, LLC.

Prior to his work at Omega, Tindal served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for CNS, then the management and operating contractor for the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, and the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The sites were staffed at more than 10,000 personnel and had a budget exceeding \$2.5B. Tindal has more than 30 years of leadership and operational experience in highly hazardous nuclear facility operations.



Through collaborative efforts with the NNSA Production Office, Tindal was also responsible for long-term strategic planning, integrated execution of mission work, enhancing disciplined operations, and establishing the foundation for a post-pandemic future at both sites. Before that he was the Y-12 site manager for six years. Tindal began his career at Y-12 in 1995 as a shift technical advisor in Building 9206, and during his time at Y-12, he served as vice president of production, manager of production facilities, and manager of Enriched Uranium Operations.

Tindal has been very active in the Oak Ridge/East Tennessee community serving on the Board and Executive Committee for ETEC, including leading the Nominating Committee for several years, and serving on the TVC Summit Board and as a TVC past Chair. He also has served on the Board of Advisors for the University of Tennessee's Department of Nuclear Engineering. In 2022, he was awarded the TVC Champion Award.

Developing the future workforce is a topic near and dear to Tindal's heart as exemplified by his work in shaping the new 2-year degree program for Nuclear Technicians at Roane State Community College. He is active in supporting veterans as well.

Browder stated, "Bill has told me that after working in many organizations within the weapons complex, he learned how all the pieces of the puzzle fit into the bigger picture. He reflected on how proud he was to have been able to contribute to our nation's security and firmly believes that every one of us has a role that makes a difference in the national security mission of the United States."

Postma Young Professional Medal Winner

Christy Drewry

Pat Postma and Megan Houchin presented this year's Postma Young Professional Medal to Christy Drewry. Megan won the Postma Medal in 2021 and is the Senior Director for Enterprise Performance Assurance for the CNS Y-12 National Security Complex.

Drewry serves as the Senior Nuclear Safety Engineer at the Y-12 Field Office (YFO) for DOE's NNSA. YFO is responsible for the safe, secure, and cost-effective operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and until recently, the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas.

Drewry joined DOE in June 2009 as a member of the NNSA Future Leaders Program. As the Senior Nuclear Safety Engineer, she was responsible for the daily execution activities associated with the Pantex Safety Basis Redesign project and is a co-lead for two of the recommendation teams. She is a qualifying official and routinely provides advice on nuclear safety related topics as a mentor to multiple safety basis engineers. Drewry serves as a Federal Team Leader in the DOE Radiological Assistance Program, which provides advice and radiological assistance for incidents involving radioactive materials that pose a threat to the public health and safety or the environment.



Drewry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 2008. She holds qualifications in Senior Technical Safety Manager, Facility Maintenance Management, Nuclear Operations Specialist, Nuclear Safety Specialist, SSO Engineer, and Chemical Processing through the DOE Technical Qualification Program. In 2018, she was recognized as the DOE's SSO Engineer of the Year. In 2020, she received the Young Alumni Achievement Award from her alma mater. Drewry is a passionate advocate for women in engineering and was named the 2021 WE Local Engaged Advocate by the Society of Women Engineers, a national award recognizing local advocates for women in engineering and the sciences.

Drewry was nominated by Teresa Robbins, Associate Principal Deputy for Operations at NNSA, and Mary Helen Hitson, Manager of the NNSA YFO. Drewry's nomination letter states, "Christy is a young professional that exudes passion and has significantly contributed to the community, specifically regarding the advancement and acceptance of women in engineering. Additionally, she has significantly contributed to the success of Y-12, NNSA, and DOE missions through a variety of progressive initiatives that recruit, retain, and create a healthier environment for federal employees thus supporting our critical nuclear security mission."

About ETEC:

ETEC is an independent, regional, non-profit, membership organization created in the early 1970s. ETEC's mission is to actively champion and harness East Tennessee's federal resources to strengthen national science, security, energy, education, and environmental missions; and foster regional economic growth through strategic partnerships. For more information visit, www.eteconline.org.

###