



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Information Technologies Agency

11751 Meadowville Lane
Chester, Virginia 23836-6315
(804) 416-6100

TDD VOICE -TEL. NO.
711

Sam A. Nixon, Jr.
Chief Information Officer
Email: cio@vita.virginia.gov

For immediate release
Sept. 11, 2013

Contact: Marcella Williamson
(804) 416-6004
marcella.williamson@vita.virginia.gov

Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth Sam Nixon Honored at COVITS for Leadership in IT

RICHMOND – Sam Nixon, Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Commonwealth and head of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA), was honored with a special award for leadership in information technology (IT) at this week's Commonwealth of Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium (COVITS).

In announcing the award to CIO Nixon on Monday, Virginia Secretary of Technology Jim Duffey said, "Sometimes an individual is so valuable and has contributed so much that recognition must be given. Virginia has been a leader in IT among the nation's states for a very long time, and this man is one of the primary reasons for it. Sam Nixon has been Virginia's technology champion." Secretary Duffey and Jack Mortimer of Government Technology Magazine presented the award to Nixon.

Nixon's public service began upon his election in 1994 to the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 27th district in Chesterfield County. Over the next 16 years, Nixon developed a strong and sustained focus on technology, health care, public utilities and labor policy. Nixon often leveraged his 25+ years of private sector IT experience as he diligently worked to apply best practices to the business of government, including the formation of VITA as a consolidated IT agency for the executive branch.

In 2010, Governor Bob McDonnell appointed Nixon to head the agency that his legislation had helped create. Today, as CIO, Nixon is responsible for Virginia's statewide IT organization with an annual budget of \$350 million. The IT footprint he manages includes two data centers, main frames, network and security operations centers, state-wide help desk, 3,600 servers, 57,700 desktops and 6,000 network printers located in 2,247 sites across the commonwealth. Nixon also is responsible for IT architecture, multiple standards, a statewide project management office, IT procurements, the commonwealth's technology investment portfolio, cyber security and the state Web portal.

Since he has taken charge at VITA, progress has been significant, and the commonwealth now is reaping the full rewards of a consolidated IT infrastructure. Under his leadership, 86 of 89 agencies now have been migrated to VITA's innovative reliable and secure cloud-based infrastructure, which includes

-more-

**Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth Sam Nixon
Honored at COVITS for Leadership in IT
Page 2 of 2**

hardware, software, messaging, voice and security platforms. These modernization efforts have made communication and collaboration between state agencies much easier and more productive.

Virginia leads the states in these IT efforts. More importantly, these changes have measurable benefits for commonwealth citizens. Virginia spends much less on IT proportionately than most other states, even as agencies are using more IT services than ever before. Much of this progress can be attributed to Nixon's leadership as CIO, and none of these successes would be possible without his legislative action that set the consolidation of Virginia's IT infrastructure in motion.

The award recognizes his service in the General Assembly, far-sighted vision of a modernized IT infrastructure in the commonwealth, and particularly his leadership as CIO that has helped make the innovative IT vision a reality.

###

About the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA)

VITA is the commonwealth's consolidated technology services and solutions provider responsible for the state's technology infrastructure, governance, security, oversight of major IT projects, and procurement of technology-related goods and services on behalf of state and local governments. www.vita.virginia.gov.

Photo caption: Virginia Secretary of Technology Jim Duffey congratulates Sam Nixon, Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth, on his special award for leadership in information technology presented earlier this week at the Commonwealth of Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium.