FIFTEEN MINNESOTA HIGH-TECH INNOVATORS HONORED AT ANNUAL TEKNE AWARDS

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 19, 2015 — The Minnesota High Tech Association (http://www.mhta.org) (MHTA) honored Minnesota companies and organizations committed to advancements in technology and science at last night’s 2015 Tekne Awards (http://www.tekneawards.org/). The MHTA selected 15 recipients whose innovations improve the lives of Minnesotans and people around the world.

“Technology is responsible for some of the most monumental changes in society today, and Minnesota continues to contribute to these advancements,” said Margaret Anderson Kelliher (http://www.mhta.org/about/people/), president and CEO of MHTA. “With the innovations and achievements of this year’s Tekne Award recipients and STEM scholars, Minnesota continues to prove it’s a leader in the science and technology industry.”

WCCO News Anchor Amelia Santaniello presided over the ceremony at the Minneapolis Convention Center that recognized innovations in education, energy, healthcare, software, workforce development, manufacturing, agriculture, cyber security, and information technology. The Tekne Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Kathleen O’Keefe. O’Keefe has been a longtime leader in Minnesota’s STEM Education community, working for the Medtronic Foundation and serving on several boards.

Public Service Awards were also presented to State Representative Pat Garofalo, State Representative Jenifer Loon, State Senator Leroy Stumpf, and State Senator Chuck Wiger.

The 2015 Tekne Award recipients include:

Advanced Manufacturing – PaR Systems
PaR created a first-of-a-kind main crane system (MCS) to reconstruct a new confinement structure in two radioactive sites: Chernobyl and Fukushima. The MCS is operated inside the structure using overhead bridge cranes, trolleys, and a remote-control and video-monitoring system to allow the dismantling and cleanup of a site in a controlled environment.

Agriculture and Food – Ecolab — Dairy Quality Enhancement Program
Ecolab introduced the Dairy Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) in 2014 as a cleaning and sanitation program aimed at addressing dairy production quality issues that stemmed from equipment contaminated with biofilms. Controlling biofilms in food-processing plants delivers higher quality, safer dairy products resulting in more efficient, higher yield production.

Applied Analytics—Reeher
Reeher provides the first and only shared management system for implementing fundraising campaigns for higher education. The system addresses declining alumni participative in fundraising efforts, and traditional sources of revenue like state funding. Its robust analytics offer predictive models, as well as tools such as donor tracking, annual reports and analytics to help fundraising teams reach donors faster and more effectively. In 2014, Reeher platform members harnessed the power of the shared management system to raise $3.6 billion from more than 1.2 million donors.

Collaboration for Community Impact – Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) and MN.IT Services—Minnesota’s Information Technology agency—developed and launched the Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry to identify and provide housing services to veterans experiencing homelessness. The registry works by connecting federal, state, county and nonprofit partners. Using a case management approach, these partners provide solutions on a veteran-by-veteran basis. This innovation has contributed to a substantial increase in housing outcomes from 11 in February (just after the registry launched) to 27 in May.

Cyber Security – TransAuth
TransAuth innovation lies in combining the wide adoption of mobile devices with a new approach called Micro-Federation. The TransAuth platform allows a user’s mobile device to function like a virtual identification badge, helping prevent damage from lost or stolen passwords and identity fraud. Seamless automated detection means users only need to carry their mobile device with them to help secure computers, sensitive data and online accounts.

Education Technology – South Central College
About Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)

The 2015 Tekne Awards are made possible by the generous support of its sponsors:

Mohamed of Minneapolis; Jason Morris of Minneapolis; Mary Nelson of Rockford; Michael Skinner of Minneapolis; and Vanneck Tiako of Plymouth.

Brooks of Hutchinson; Tameka Cannon of Minneapolis; Aschalew Chamiso of Shinshicho, Ethiopia; Nathan Fell of Racine, Wisconsin; Katrina Hanson of Lakeland; Hillary Heiling of

disciplines. 2015 scholarship recipients include: Samantha Adank of Fargo, North Dakota; Eleni Beyene of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Sarah Bliese of Alexandria, Minnesota; Rochelle

The MHTA Foundation awarded its annual scholarships to undergraduate students who excel in programs geared toward science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines. 2015 scholarship recipients include: Samantha Adank of Fargo, North Dakota; Eleni Beyene of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Sarah Bliese of Alexandria, Minnesota; Rochelle Brooks of Hutchinson; Tameka Cannon of Minneapolis; Aschalew Chamiso of Shinshicho, Ethiopia; Nathan Fell of Racine, Wisconsin; Katrina Hanson of Lakeland; Hillary Heiling of Pine Island; Matt Helm of Grand Rapids; Colleen Hutchison of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Aduramo Lasode of Liorin, Kwara State, Nigeria; Abigail Meyer of Dennison; Fatihma Mohamed of Minneapolis; Jason Morris of Minneapolis; Mary Nelson of Rockford; Michael Skinner of Minneapolis; and Vanneck Tiako of Plymouth.

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The 2015 Tekne Awards are made possible by the generous support of its sponsors:

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About Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)
MHTA is an innovation and technology association united in fueling Minnesota's prosperity. We help bring together the people of Minnesota's technology ecosystem and lead the charge in directing technology issues to Minnesota's state capitol. MHTA is the only membership organization that represents Minnesota's entire technology-based economy. MHTA members include organizations of every size – involved in virtually every aspect of technology creation, production, application and education in Minnesota. Find out more online http://www.mhta.org or follow MHTA on Twitter at http://twitter.com/MHTA.