

In 2007, the Virginia Department of Forestry brought home a very prestigious national award from the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) for its Integrated Forest Resource Information System (IFRIS). Forestry's recognition by NASCIO for excellence in use of information technology to solve a business problem linked the agency with a long line of Virginia entities which have been recognized for excellence in leveraging IT, including honorable mentions awarded to the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office in 2006.

Fast forward to 2008: Is your organization ready to realize similar recognition and honor for the Commonwealth?

NASCIO has just announced that it will be accepting nominations for the 2008 Recognition Awards for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Information Technology in state government through June 3, 2008. CIO Lem Stewart submits all awards on behalf of the Commonwealth and is looking forward to presenting an excellent slate of entries this year. NASCIO has also expanded its recognition this year to include announcement of three finalists prior to the actual awards.

Awards will be presented in the following ten categories:

- Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery
- Cross-Boundary Collaboration and Partnerships
- Data, Information and Knowledge Management
- Digital Government: Government to Business (G to B)
- Digital Government: Government to Citizen (G to C)
- Digital Government: Government to Government (G to G)
- Enterprise IT Management Initiatives
- Information Communications Technology (ICT) Innovations
- Information Security and Privacy
- IT Project and Portfolio Management

Please consider your organization's innovative efforts leveraging IT that might qualify for one of these awards; criteria, resources and past winners are available [online](#). Projects must have been operational for six months. To submit a project for consideration, please e-mail a brief project summary highlighting benefits and innovation to [Emily Seibert](#), at your earliest convenience and no later than April 22. The awards committee and CIO Stewart will review all suggestions prior to compiling nominations and contact you for further details as needed.