

## North Central Texas Council of Governments Bestows Awards at 53rd Annual Meeting

At the 53rd annual meeting of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) on Friday, June 14, NCTCOG President Kevin Strength, Councilmember, City of Waxahachie presented three important regional leadership and cooperation awards.



**LINDA KEITHLEY AWARD FOR WOMEN IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT.** Established in 1986, this award is presented each year to an outstanding woman in public management who exemplifies the high standards represented by Linda Keithley during her seventeen years with the Council of Governments. The award is designed to recognize service as a public management professional through dedicated performance; service to the public management profession through active participation; and service to the community through civic, church, and charity activities.

**Jennifer Nguyen**, Chairwoman of the Community Multicultural Commission with the City of Garland received NCTCOG's 2019 Linda Keithley Award. Ms. Nguyen was described as a fierce advocate for multicultural communities, working hard to maximize the inclusion and quality of life for diverse populations, not just in her city, but in communities throughout the North Central Texas region. She was praised for her ability to reach across cultural barriers to find common ground and for her leadership, mentorship and investment of her personal time to achieve win/wins.

Ms. Nguyen was nominated by Debby Bobbitt, Councilmember for the City of Rowlett. Accepting the award on behalf of Ms. Nguyen



**William J. Pitstick Award.** Established in 1993 to recognize an individual for his or her strong commitment to the concept and promotion of regionalism. The award is so named in honor of the late Bill Pitstick, Former Executive Director of NCTCOG for 26 years.

**Steve Terrell**, Mayor of the City of Allen received this year's 2019 William Pitstick Award. Mayor Terrell was described as someone who promotes cooperation among different communities and interest groups to look for solutions with regional benefits. He was recognized for his incredible

understanding that as citizens move about from city to city for work, school and personal needs, the conditions of one city will affect how a person views the entire region; therefore, it is important for cities to work together on common goals.

Mayor Terrell was nominated by Gary Caplinger, Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Allen.



**REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD.** Created in 1996, this award jointly recognizes two or more local governments for outstanding acts of cooperation. The award honors local governments that promote coordination and cooperation to solve regional problems, who do not allow jurisdictional boundaries to be barriers to solutions to those problems, and who demonstrate that joint projects often can provide better use of resources as well as high quality service.

**The Cities of Kennedale and Arlington** received this year's Regional Cooperation Award. These cities truly represented the concept of reaching

across jurisdictional boundaries as they entered into contracts for Kennedale to purchase water from the City of Arlington and for Arlington to assume the entire operation and maintenance of the system for Kennedale. The City of Arlington benefits by acquiring a new finished water customer, making possible the selling of excess capacity of treated water beyond the current or likely long-term needs of Arlington. The City of Kennedale benefits from the acquisition of water at a lower cost and the operation of its water distribution and sewer collection systems at a lower cost than Kennedale can do on its own, thereby making a positive budget impact. This cooperative agreement also allows Kennedale to phase out use of its wells and the further depletion of groundwater in the region.

The cities were nominated by **George Campbell**, City Manager for the City of Kennedale.

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**About the North Central Texas Council of Governments:**

NCTCOG is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication and make joint decisions.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered on the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth. Currently, NCTCOG has 240 member governments including 16 counties, 170 cities, 24 school districts and 30 special districts.

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