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WRPS EARNS SECOND AWARD FOR MENTORING LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

Richland Yesterday the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection's (ORP) tank farms contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), was awarded the U.S. Department of Energy Fiscal Year 2016 Mentor of the Year award for leadership in mentoring local small businesses. This is the second time WRPS received this award, the first time being in FY 2011.

The DOE Mentor of the Year award is given to the federal contractor that demonstrates excellence in meeting the requirements of the department's mentor-protégé program. Through this program, WRPS partnered with local small businesses to create long-lasting relationships, share best practices and lessons learned, and enhance the business' ability to successfully compete for federal contracts.

"It is quite an accomplishment for WRPS to be recognized twice as the DOE Mentor of the Year," said Marc McCusker, ORP director of contracts and property management. "This accomplishment demonstrates WRPS' core commitment to partnering with small businesses to help them become more successful in competing for government contracts."

"WRPS takes every opportunity to introduce protégés to other corporate resources and assists them in establishing business relationships with necessary suppliers by promoting their abilities," said Jose Legarreta, WRPS manager of procurement services.

Through the DOE mentor-protégé program, WRPS has provided oversight and coaching of a HUBZone business, Terra Graphics Engineering and Environmental, Inc., located in Pasco, Washington.

WRPS was recognized for its work in FY 2016 to champion its protégé company by showcasing TerraGraphics in several company-sponsored outreach events. During these outreach events, WRPS spotlighted the company by providing marketing literature used to actively pursue potential business opportunities across the complex. WRPS regularly involves protégés in local community and outreach events to further enhance networking opportunities with potential customers.

"As a large prime contractor, it is an honor to receive the Energy Department's Mentor of the Year Award recognizing WRPS' efforts in partnering with local firms, particularly with small and disadvantaged businesses," said Legarreta. "Through the department's mentor-protégé program, WRPS has been able to provide technical developmental assistance to protégés to enhance their capabilities to compete directly for DOE prime and subcontracts."