

## Rusty Lee Earns National Achievement Award

Recognition by your peers is arguably the greatest honor and our Delaware T<sup>2</sup>/LTAP Center's Rusty Lee earned the National Program Achievement Award from the National Local Technical and Tribal Technical Assistance Program Association (NLTAPA) at our annual conference in Seattle last month.

As you probably know, there is an LTAP Center (known by many names, including T<sup>2</sup> Centers) in each state, as well as Puerto Rico. Rusty has been active in NLTAPA and instrumental in moving a number of initiatives forward that benefit local agencies in Delaware and across the nation.

The Achievement Award is presented by NLTAPA to an individual (or individuals) in recognition of their dedication, leadership, and effectiveness in promoting the goals and purposes of the Association. This year, the Association recognized two individuals, so Rusty was joined by Kim Carr from the West Virginia LTAP.

It is fitting that Rusty and Kim were recognized the same year, as they often collaborate on initiatives that further the purpose of NLTAPA and local agencies. Principally, Kim co-Chairs the Professional Development Workgroup where Rusty is an active member. The PD Workgroup, among other initiatives, developed mentoring programs for new members to the national LTAP network and even started LTAP-U, an annual crash course in the who's who, what's what, and where do you find it for new employees of LTAP Centers. Kim and Rusty have been key in these developments, but their contributions to the LTAP community goes far beyond the PD Workgroup.

Because the PD Workgroup organizes the annual award, members of the workgroup had to conspire, connive, and engage in some artful trickery to keep the award secret from both Kim and Rusty. But then again, they are both easily duped.

And, like other organizations, NLTAPA has had to bestow honors virtually the past couple of years, so we took the first opportunity to be together as a national group to play catch up and also recognize the past two years winners of the Program Achievement Award, Donna Shea (CT LTAP) and Steve Strength (LA LTAP). Congratulations to these four winners over the past three years!



Figure 1 Mary McCarthy (CT LTAP) presents Rusty Lee with the Program Achievement Award at the 2022 NLTAPA Conference in Seattle, WA



Figure 2 Kim Carr (WV LTAP) receives the Program Achievement Award



Figure 3 (Left to Right) Donna Shea, Kim Carr, Rusty Lee, and Steve Strength at the 2022 NLTAPA Conference