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## **Sarasota County/Schools CIO Hanson named one of nation's best**

Robert Hanson, who has served for four years as the chief information officer for both the Sarasota County Government and the Sarasota County Schools, has been recognized as one of the top information officers in the U.S. by Federal Computer Week magazine.

The two agencies entered into an agreement to share a CIO so both could benefit from his expertise, collaborate on developing technology services, avoid duplication of effort and cultivate efficiencies of common leadership in the technology arena.

Hanson has been named one of the 2008 Federal 100 Award Winners, a group of technology professionals who are selected annually for their contributions to the information technology field. The Federal 100 is made up of individuals from government, industry and academia who significantly influence how the federal government buys, uses or manages information technology. Federal 100 winners are recognized for their risk-taking, vision and pioneering spirit in the national information technology community.

The winners are nominated by Federal Computer Week readers and are selected by an independent panel of judges. The award winners will be featured in the March 24 issue of the magazine.

"This award recognizes the opportunities and possibilities of public sector cooperation in information technology," said Jim Ley, Sarasota County administrator. "This kind of collaboration between Sarasota County Government Sarasota County Schools delivers significant benefits in information technology management and cost savings for the public. It's a cutting-edge use of technology skills to assure efficient government and the most effective use of tax dollars."

This is the 19<sup>th</sup> year of Federal Computer Week's Federal 100 awards program, which has recognized 1,900 people in the federal, state, and local governments. Other winners this year include Eric Schmidt, chairman and CEO of Google, Frances Byrd of the U.S. Postal Service, Karen Wilson of the Boeing Corp and Jeff Koch of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

"The Fed 100 awards have proven to be a valuable way to recognize the people who go above and beyond, the leaders, the influencers, the guiders, the thought leaders," said

Christopher Dorobek, editor in chief of Federal Computer Week. "The awards recognize people who have made a difference in the government's use of information technology."

Hanson was recognized for accomplishments that included creating a community institutional network and a disaster recovery collaborative among counties in Florida. Hanson also developed a public sector Enterprise Resource Planning system that integrates an organization's data and processes into a unified system. He also implemented an Information Technology Infrastructure Library to manage information technology development and operations to significantly increase client service levels and satisfaction.

"While these awards are often given to the leader of a team, it's important to note that they are only possible because of the excellence of the team of professionals supporting that leader," Hanson said.

"Bob not only has helped bring the human and technical resources of two information technology departments together for Sarasota County Schools and Sarasota County Government, he has empowered each organization to retain its own identity and meet its specific needs," said Sarasota County Schools Superintendent Gary Norris. "Bob and his colleagues have created a model that has attracted a great deal of national attention and we're delighted that he's been named a Federal 100 winner."

Hanson also has been identified one of the year's 25 most influential people by Government Technology Magazine, a top organizational leader by the Center for Digital Governments and one of the top 100 CIOs in the world by CIO Magazine.

Hanson became CIO for Sarasota County Government in 2001 and was named Sarasota County Schools CIO in 2004.