American Academy of Actuaries Recognizes Volunteers’ Efforts

WASHINGTON – The American Academy of Actuaries honored five of its volunteers, Anne Button, Audrey Halvorson, Geoffrey Hancock, David Ingram, and Joeff Williams, for their contributions to the professional association and their efforts to advance its mission. The five actuaries were recognized with the 2013 Award for Outstanding Volunteerism during a ceremony held earlier today.

“The Academy benefits greatly from the substantive contributions of the more than 1,300 volunteers who are actively engaged in fulfilling its public policy and professionalism missions,” said Academy President Cecil Bykerk, who presented the awards. “In their volunteer work for the Academy, Anne, Audrey, Geoff, David and Joeff each contributed substantially to important Academy work, demonstrating a commitment to the profession and the public that won the admiration of the members and officers of the Academy.”

Button is a senior actuary for the U.S. Department of Energy. She was recognized for her groundbreaking work as chairperson of the Pension Practice Council’s Forward Thinking Task Force. Under her leadership, the task force developed consensus on principles to ensure sound retirement systems, the cornerstone of the Academy’s soon-to-be-launched "Retirement for the Ages" initiative.

Halvorson is the chief actuary, and vice president of Actuarial Services and Healthcare Economics, for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona. She was recognized for her exceptional leadership on the Rate Review Practice Note Work Group. As chairperson, she organized a large team of volunteers,
coordinated calls with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and reviewed and revised the existing practice note to conform to final federal regulations — all under very short constraints.

Geoffrey Hancock was most recently a partner with Oliver Wyman in Toronto. He was recognized for his recent work with the AG 43/C3 Phase II Work Group. Hancock helped to evaluate the need for updating the parameters of the economic scenario generator and associated calibration criteria. His contributions were central to the group’s work and regulators’ efforts to modify the reserve and capital requirements for variable annuities.

David Ingram is a member of Willis Re’s Analytics team based in New York. He was recognized for his distinguished leadership as chairman of the Actuarial Standards Board’s (ASB) Enterprise Risk Management Task Force. He organized the task force’s work effectively — developing, exposing, and ultimately marshaling to final adoption the Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 46, "Risk Evaluation in Enterprise Risk Management," and ASOP No. 47, "Risk Treatment in Enterprise Risk Management." Under his stewardship, the ERM Task Force of the ASB became its standing Committee on ERM.

Joeff Williams is a consulting actuary with Actuarial Management Resources in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was recognized for his outstanding work organizing, producing and presenting the Academy's annual Life and Health Qualifications Seminar, which has been in place since 2000 and has reached new, maximum levels of attendance. In selecting him for this award, his colleagues recognized how his many years of participation in the seminar, serving as health faculty, an exemplary volunteer, and twice now as chairperson, has in the last year culminated in a singular effort that went above and beyond typical volunteer engagement.

The Academy established the Award for Outstanding Volunteerism to honor Academy volunteers who have made a single, noteworthy volunteerism contribution in the previous year that is above and beyond what is reasonably expected of an Academy volunteer.

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The American Academy of Actuaries is a 17,500-member professional association whose mission is to serve the public and the U.S. actuarial profession. The Academy assists public policymakers on all levels by providing leadership, objective expertise, and actuarial advice on risk and financial security issues. The Academy also sets qualification, practice, and professionalism standards for actuaries in the United States.

Media Only: For digital photographs of the award recipients, contact David Mendes, assistant director of communications, public affairs, at the American Academy of Actuaries, at 202.384.2075 or mendes@actuary.org.