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Contact:
Annette S. Garcia, Communications Officer
956.984.6011   angarcia@esc1.net

25th Annual Region One Technology Conference Continues to Attract
Still Going Strong After 25 Years

The Region One ESC Annual Technology Conference started 25 years ago as an opportunity for technology vendors to exhibit software and hardware products to school district technologists. At the time, the use of technology was confined mostly to networking rooms and utilized mainly by those in the technology field. Today, "technology" is used to operate every facet of education, from business operations to the delivery of instruction in the classroom. With the increased use of technology in education, the Region One ESC Annual Technology Conference has mushroomed into a premier event that draws educators, technology professionals, business and community members from across the state to participate in engaging breakout sessions, networking with colleagues, and sharing and learning.

The 25th Annual Technology Conference *"Don't Mess with Technology"* held on May 20-22, 2019 at the South Padre Island Convention Center attracted almost 900 participants. The free event provided relevant and engaging breakout sessions focused on Information Security, Technology Integration, Network Infrastructure, Data Center, and DevOps and hosted 90 different vendors. This year's conference logo was designed by Ashlynn Saenz, PSJA Memorial Early College High School.

Ali Kolahdouz, Region One ESC Chief Technology Officer, attributes the growing popularity of the Region One Technology Conference to varying factors, "The Technology Conference has continued going strong because it provides a venue like none other in our region for educators and technologists to gather, learn, and share their experiences. A big change is that we've seen more participation from sectors such as higher education, local government, and non-profit organizations, and I feel it's partly because we face the same challenges and partly because we all want to help each other succeed."

"I'd like to thank the Region One Technology for Learning and Library Services teams for their efforts in making the conference a success, our educators and technologists for taking time out of their schedules to join us, our partners, exhibitors and sponsors for supporting Region One's Technology Conference, and the City and residents of South Padre Island for their hospitality," added Kolahdouz.

Plans are already underway for the 2020 Region One Technology Conference which will be held May 18-20, 2020. Kolahdouz says based on conference feedback, a new administrative/leadership session strand is being planned in addition to the already popular breakout learning opportunities.

Special thanks to conference sponsors including Platinum Sponsors Audio Visual Aids, f5, NetSync, SHI, and Intech Southwest Services; Gold Sponsors including ASAP Security Services, Cisco, Copy Graphics, Inc., Dell Technologies, Howard Technology Solutions, Motorola Solutions, Inc., Premier Wireless Education Technology Solutions, Ruckus Networks, SAM Labs, Thomas Regout, Inc., and Silver Sponsors including Ascender, Blackboard, Inc., DreamBox Learning Math, Fortinet, Freeit Data Solutions, Insight Public Sector, Kellogg & Sovereign Consulting, LLC, Layer 3 Communications, LocknCharge, McAfee, LLC., sequel Data Systems, Inc., and VTX1Companies.

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