

Transit Supervisor wins Award



CONGRATULATIONS!

Kathy Webster, Transit Supervisor, was chosen to receive this award which reads:

Outstanding Rural Transit Service Award

Person of the Year

Kathy Webster

Watertown CitiBus

Rural & Specialized Transit Conference

March 16-17, 2005

AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING RURAL TRANSIT SERVICE

180 attendees gathered in Syracuse on March 16 and 17 for the ninth annual Rural and Specialized Transit Conference. The conference featured a number of speakers and topics of interest to those involved in rural, small urban and specialized transportation. Financial management, disability awareness training, preventive maintenance, and a procurement roundtable were included on the agenda. Hands-on demonstrations of pre-trip vehicle inspections were also featured.

In what has become an annual tradition at the conference, awards for Outstanding Rural Transit Service were presented to three attendees. The awards are intended to honor transit managers and transit systems that demonstrate leadership qualities and innovative practices that help local transit succeed. While there can only be one official winner in each of the three categories, all the nominees are deserving of congratulations and recognition.

The award for the System of the Year was presented to Oneonta Public Transit for its long-standing tradition of excellent service and partnerships with many segments of the

community. OPT's links with businesses, colleges and tourism have made this system a stand-out as a small city transit system with over 600,000 riders a year. Also nominated for the award were Franklin County Public Transit for its coordination and cooperation among its transit partners, and Oneida County Rural Transit for implementing a greatly expanded countywide coordinated service.

The award for Person of the Year was presented to Kathy Webster of Watertown Citibus. Kathy was cited for her outstanding ability to work closely with the City, her transit department staff and the local community to get the job done. Advancing from dispatcher to head bus driver and then to Transit Supervisor, Kathy Webster has shown her leadership ability and dedication to providing great transit for her community. She is known for her willingness to work with individuals and local organizations to find ways to make transit work for everyone. Kathy was also recently named to the Board of Directors of the New York Public Transit Association. Other nominees for the award were Joe Richards, Manager of Chenango County Public Transit, for his work to make public transit a partner with the community, and John Insetta for his leadership in running one of the best small city transit systems anywhere.

A Marketing Award was presented to Nancy Robert for Franklin County's outstanding work in community outreach. Nancy, the Mobility Coordinator for the County, has succeeded in making the local community aware of public transit, not only by a new system logo, slogan and new schedules, but also by being out there in the community. Not content with phone calls or letters, Nancy has gotten the word out by meeting with businesses, organizations and individuals and always looking for ways to improve service in the County. Other nominees for the Marketing Award were Eric Taylor of Birnie Bus for his work to make the community aware of the improved Oneida County Rural Transit service, and Anne and Seth Corwin of Hornell Area Transit for their marketing program to commemorate the system reaching an annual ridership of 100,000 passengers.