

**FOR RELEASE: May 5, 2009**

## **Highest Honor in Supply Management Presented to Seminole Electric Cooperative Exec**

**Institute for Supply Management™(ISM) honors Richard D. Rich, C.P.M., with J. Shipman Gold Medal Award.**

(Tempe, Ariz.) May 5, 2009 — Richard D. Rich, C.P.M., today accepted his profession's highest honor at the Institute for Supply Management™'s (ISM) 94th Annual International Supply Management Conference and Educational Exhibit. Rich accepted the J. Shipman Gold Medal Award in Charlotte, North Carolina, in recognition of modest, unselfish, sincere and persistent efforts for the advancement of supply management.

Rich has spent the majority of his 35-year career working in the government and public sectors. He is director of enterprise risk management for Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Tampa, Florida. Rich arrived at Seminole in 1982, and spent the next 26 years in purchasing, inventory, materials management and supply management. In 2008, Seminole Electric's CEO recruited him to implement an enterprise risk management program for the entire organization. "I'm proud that my organization made the bold and innovative move of entrusting a supply chain professional to manage risk on an enterprise level," Rich says.

Seminole Electric Cooperative CEO Tim Woodbury says he never even considered looking outside the organization. "Because of the skill set gained in supply management and his demonstrated leadership abilities, Richard was the ideal choice for establishing this new enterprise risk management function," Woodbury says. "Richard was able to hit the ground running — supply management not only equipped him well for the task of establishing protocols and methodologies for assessing risk, but it also gave him the tools necessary to effectively work across departmental lines with personnel at all levels within the company." Adds Woodbury, "My ability to redeploy existing manpower in this instance was only made possible by Richard having groomed his capable successor. It was a win-win for the company and a win for all the employees involved."

Like Shipman winners before him, Rich has played an integral part in the leveling up of the profession and his chosen association. For five years, between 1997 and 2001, he played a key role in changing the 85-year-old National Association of Purchasing Management™ (NAPM) governance process to the current Institute for Supply Management™ (ISM) governance and operating process. During his president-elect year from 1997 to 1998, Rich chaired the NAPM Strategic Planning Committee which prepared, drafted and coordinated the first-ever NAPM Five-Year Strategic Plan. While serving as NAPM president during 1998 to 1999, Rich spearheaded the leadership that ultimately led to the adoption by NAPM of a number of key initiatives contained in the Strategic Plan, including changing the name of the association to Institute for Supply Management™, a name that more appropriately reflects the growing importance of the field of supply management within public and private organizations.

Rich spent his early career with the State of Wyoming. One of his first positions involved managing contracts and purchases of food and pharmaceuticals for state institutions. He was later promoted state program manager for purchasing and assistant administrator for the Division of Purchasing and Property Control. In 1979, the governor of Wyoming appointed Rich chief of fiscal operations for Wyoming Game and Fish. In July 1980, Rich moved east and was appointed purchasing supervisor with the City of Pittsburgh, where he supervised a citywide spend of about \$250 million. In March 1981, then-New York City Mayor Edward Koch appointed Rich to the post of assistant commissioner of procurement for the five boroughs of New York City.

Rich earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wyoming (UW) in Laramie. He is former president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity and also co-founded A-Enterprises, a local social fraternity for men and women.

The J. Shipman Gold Medal Award is the highest award within the power of ISM to confer. ISM joins the members of the 2008-2009 J. Shipman Gold Medal Award Selection Committee — Thomas H. Slaight; Aaron D. Dent; Timothy R. Fiore, C.P.M.; R. David Nelson, C.P.M., A.P.P.; and Norbert J. Ore, CPSM, C.P.M. — in congratulating Richard D. Rich, C.P.M., on this prestigious award. The J. Shipman Gold Medal Award was created by the Purchasing Management Association of New York in 1931 to honor Johnson Shipman, a pioneer in the profession.

*As the largest supply management institute in the world, the mission of Institute for Supply Management™ (ISM) is to lead supply management. By executing and extending its mission through education, research, standards of excellence, influence building and information dissemination — including the renowned monthly ISM Report On Business® — ISM continues to extend the global impact of supply management. ISM is proud to recognize professional excellence in supply management with awards such as the ISM R. Gene Richter Awards for Leadership and Innovation in Supply Management and the J. Shipman Gold Medal Award. ISM's membership base includes more than 40,000 supply management professionals in 75 countries. Supply management professionals are responsible for trillions of dollars in the purchases of products and services annually. ISM is a member of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM).*

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