

Dublin is selected a Top Seven Intelligent Community (SNP Online)

By KATHLEEN L. RADCLIFF

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It's no secret to Dublin's city officials, community leaders and residents that their city is top notch.

And, the world has taken notice, as the city that calls itself home to 3,000 businesses, was named to the Top Seven list by being named a Top Seven Intelligent Community at the Intelligent Community Forum at the Pacific Telecommunications Council's annual conference in Honolulu Jan. 20.

Dublin was named a Smart21 Community in 2007, 2008 and 2009 by the New York-based think tank, said Nancy Richison, representing the city's economic development department.

The city joins Arlington County, Va.; Dundee, Scotland; Eindhoven, Netherlands; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Suwon, South Korea and Tallinn, Estonia, in rounding out the top seven.

The Top Seven Intelligent Communities are selected through analysis of detailed data submitted by the Smart21 Communities, which were named in October 2009 at a ceremony in New York City hosted by Stockholm, Sweden, the 2009 Intelligent Community of the Year.

The Top Seven are the seven top-scoring communities from among the Smart21 in the quantitative analysis conducted by an international academic team, she said.

According to the ICF, Intelligent Communities are those which have -- whether through crisis or foresight - - come to understand the challenges of the broadband economy, and have taken conscious steps to create an economy capable of prospering in it.

In a study funded by the Province of Ontario, Canada, the Intelligent Community Forum defined five critical success factors for the creation of Intelligent Communities: broadband connectivity, knowledge workforce, digital inclusion, innovation, and marketing and advocacy.

Dublin has used its innovative underground fiber optic network DubLink to establish the Central Ohio Research Network linking government, businesses and schools to the Ohio Supercomputer Center.

In addition, the city is promoting an entrepreneurial economy through efforts such as the establishment of the Dublin Entrepreneurial Center, and partnering with the education and business communities to ensure a highly skilled workforce now and into the future, she said.

"It is a great honor to be considered in league with these global communities, and to be recognized for our efforts to keep our citizens and businesses connected to the world," Dublin City Manager Terry Foegler said.

"To be named one of seven international cities awarded Intelligent Community status further solidifies Dublin's reputation as a community where you will find a highly educated workforce, an entrepreneurial spirit and the infrastructure to support it," he said.

"This is another example of the creativity and investment this community makes," Councilwoman Marilee Chinnici-Zuercher said during the roundtable section of Dublin City Council's regular meeting Monday, Jan. 25, as she recalled a man stopped her in Kroger's recently to offer his congratulations.

In May 2010, one of the Top Seven will be named Intelligent Community of the Year at the Building the Broadband Economy summit, produced in association with the Polytechnic Institute of New York University, Richison said.

For more information about the Intelligent Community Forum, visit online at intelligentcommunity.org.

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