



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **2015 Annual Meeting Awards Banquet Winners**

Each year, NPC holds an awards banquet at the Annual Meeting to honor individuals whose work has aided the industry in addressing issues that impact potato production. The awards banquet provides a venue to highlight the contributions, dedication, and leadership of deserving individuals who emerge from a competitive pool of nominees.

**The Environmental Stewardship Award** is a component of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program--a partnership between NPC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect the environment and promote the safe and effective use of pesticides. Once again, NPC partnered with DuPont Crop Protection, who is the primary sponsor of the annual award and the production of the [Environmental Stewardship video](#). This year's recipients are Brendon and Sheldon Rockey of Rockey Farms in Center, Colorado.

**The Meritorious Service Award** recognizes one individual whose work has aided the industry in addressing issues that impact potato production. This year's recipient is the late Dr. Christian Thill of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Thill was a potato breeder, plant geneticist, and professor whose untimely death robbed a family of a loving father and took from the potato industry a passionate and accomplished potato breeder. The University has established a scholarship in his honor.

**The Seed Grower of the Year Award** honors a grower who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, both on the farm and across the potato industry. This year's recipients are Corrie and Tom Enander of Enander Seed Farm in Grenora, North Dakota.

**The NPC Industry Award**, given to an individual who has gone above and beyond the call of duty by making tremendous personal sacrifices for the betterment of the potato industry, was awarded to Matt Lantz of Seattle, Washington. Lantz provides leadership to the potato industry in efforts to expand exports of U.S. seed, fresh, and frozen processed potatoes.

**NPC Presidential Awards** are given annually to one or more individuals by the NPC President to those who have supported and mentored the president during his time of leadership. This year, President Randy Hardy recognized Michael Cranney, Karlene Hardy, and Benjamin Hardy, all of Oakley, Idaho.



**NPC 2014 President Randy Hardy (left) Congratulates NPC Industry Award winner, Matt Lantz (right)**



**NPC Presidential Award winner, Ben Hardy (left), is congratulated by his father and NPC 2014 President, Randy Hardy (right)**

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*The National Potato Council is the advocate for the economic well-being of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level.*