

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards

Contact: Dustin Wardlow info@theconferenceonline.org

The Conference Holds 104th Annual Convention

San Antonio, TX – The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc. met February 28-29, 2009 at the DoubleTree Hotel at the San Antonio Airport. The convention was attended by over 100 delegates who represented funeral service licensing and regulatory agencies throughout the United States and Canada, as well as many of the 57 accredited mortuary schools from across the country. In addition to its regular business meeting, the convention featured a variety of informative presentations as well as the President's Banquet on Friday evening where new officers were installed for the 2008-2009 term.

This year, the 104th convention took on a different format, with attendees meeting Thursday and Friday, instead of the former Saturday and Sunday format. Holding the convention during the week was a resounding success, allowing for attendees to have the weekend for travel or for leisure.

General Counsel Peter Drumm of Muncie, Indiana, swore in the new slate of officers which includes President Billie Watson Hughes of Alexandria, Virginia, Vice-President Lisa Moore of Lodi, California and Secretary-Treasurer Bob Barnes of Portland, Maine.

Also featured at the banquet were the recipients of the 2007 Academic Achievement Awards. The Distinguished Arts Academic Achievement Award went to Amy Nash of Fayetteville Technical College, and Jeffery Veldhof of Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. The Distinguished Science Academic Achievement Award went to Elizabeth Arvidson of Worsham College of Mortuary Science, and Ryan Bandy of Mid-America College of Funeral Service. Out of over 2,800 candidates who took the National Board Exam of The Conference in 2007, these four men and women made the highest scores in the nation.

The President's Award for Outstanding Service went to Jim Shoemake president of the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. Shoemake was honored for his exceptional service in funeral service education as well as the industry.

--MORE--

This year's convention included six presentations throughout the day on Friday. Billie Watson Hughes started the morning giving a presentation about "Sanction Referencing," followed by Lamar Hankins who spoke on "A Consumer's Perspective on Funeral Service." John "Remo" Portelli gave the first presentation of the afternoon when he held an informative discussion on funeral service ethics using a film "Ethics through a Camera's Eye," as a focal point of his presentation. Jannette Gosha gave an educational presentation on "The Funeral Rule Offenders Program," followed by Deborah Orecki who discussed "Tissue Issues." David Benke and Angela McArthur ended the convention with their informative presentation on "Non-Transplantable Anatomical Donations."

The ICFSEB annual convention provides a valuable opportunity for practicing professionals, regulators and educators to come together for exchange of information, problem-solving strategies, and goals for the future of the funeral service profession. The 2009 convention is slated for the last week of February in Williamsburg, Virginia. For more information on the convention or The Conference, call 479-442-7076, or visit www.theconferenceonline.org.

###