



For more information, contact:

Mike Gowrylow
(360) 534-1610

Washington Department of Revenue wins yet another national award

OLYMPIA, WA, April 15, 2013 – The Washington State Department of Revenue has won another national award in recognition of its efforts to help businesses easily file and pay taxes accurately.

The Federation of Tax Administrators named Washington State the winner of its 2013 FTA Award for Outstanding Compliance Program.

The award recognizes the Department's deployment of an iPhone mobile device application that helps taxpayers, especially small businesses, accurately determine the right sales tax rates to charge customers. The Department later introduced an Android version as well.

FTA judges said the state was the first to identify a compelling taxpayer need and meet it with a mobile app.

“What’s not to like,” said one judge. “All the states have been looking for ways to use those apps and this is a great way. It’s more than just ‘here is a list of our district offices.’ They took the technology and applied it to a need. A carpet-layer who works in five jurisdictions during the day has to look up the tax rate five times a day. And they clearly did some design work. They just didn’t say ‘type in your location.’ They incorporated GPS so it starts with your location.”

Judges were especially pleased with the recordkeeping function of the app, saying, “They just hit it on all cylinders.”

Washington State has won more national FTA awards than any other state tax agency in the nation, 19 in all over the past 14 years. Just last month, the FTA named Janet Shimabukuro, assistant director of Revenue's Taxpayer Services Division, recipient of its 2013 Harley T. Duncan Award for Leadership and Service.

The Federation of Tax Administrators is a nonprofit organization composed of taxation and revenue departments of the fifty states, District of Columbia and New York City. Its mission is to improve the standards and methods of tax administration.

###