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STATE OF KANSAS

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Secretary of State Presents NASS Award to Scot Henderson

TOPEKA (October 9, 2014) – Today Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach presented a NASS Medallion Award to Scot Henderson of Concordia. Henderson received the honor for his role in advancing Secretary Kobach’s goal of making government more business friendly.

An accountant and manager of the Concordia branch of Long & Associates Public Accountants, Inc., Henderson has prompted significant changes, including the manner in which business filings are accepted or rejected, and the simplifying of annual report filing for business owners.

“When I became secretary of state, I realized that bureaucrats need to spend less time talking to other bureaucrats and more time talking to business owners about how to make a real difference,” said Kobach. “I am quite pleased to announce this achievement, and to thank Scot for his innovative ideas and follow through,” said Secretary Kobach. “I’ve often said that our customers have the best ideas, and Scot has been a great advocate and partner in the business community for these improvements.”

When Kobach first met with the Public Accountants Association in January of 2011, he was told that the secretary of state’s office was rejecting filings for reasons that seemed beyond its statutory authority or at least beyond common sense. Working with Henderson, the office identified unnecessary barriers and inefficiencies. Upon examination the office found that some policies adopted by prior administrations had no statutory basis. Adjustments to these policies resulted in a reduction of Annual Report rejections from 20% to 8%, a more than 50% reduction in rejections that had no basis in law. Scot’s efforts not only reduced government bureaucracy for Kansas businesses but improved the filing process for secretary of state office staff.

That contribution alone would have been significant, but Henderson offered another insight to assist businesses. He helped to identify software commonly used for annual report preparation in Kansas and championed the idea with vendors. Plus he put the office in touch with the vendor that joined the successful pilot program, Thomson Reuters. Its tax preparation software for professionals, *UltraTax CS*, was the first to use a standard for annual report filing developed by the secretary of state’s office. The XML filing standard is now available for use by other vendors whose software supports annual report preparation.

The NASS Medallion Award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to furthering the mission of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), including promotion of elections, civic education, service to state government, and commitment to giving.

More information about [online filing services](#) available from the Office of the Kansas Secretary of State can be found at: www.sos.ks.gov.