

## NOMINATION FORM

### *FISSEA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD*

*Name of Nominee:* Ms. Susan Hansche

*Employing Organization:* Avaya Government Solutions

*Position and/or Title:* IA Training Program Director (CTR) Department of State Diplomatic Security Training Center

*Qualifications Statement: (What has the nominee done to warrant this nomination?)*

*Note: The names of those nominating the candidate and contact information are not included on the website.*

I would like to nominate Susan Hansche, Avaya Government Solutions for FISSEA Educator of the Year.

Susan Hansche, CISSP-ISSEP, CISM has over 20 years experience in the information technology training field and has specific expertise in designing, developing, and implementing Information Assurance and Cybersecurity training programs for Federal agencies. For the past 14 years, the focus of her professional experience has been with information system security and building training programs that provide organizations with the skills necessary to protect their information technology infrastructures. An additional expertise is in her knowledge and understanding of the Federal information system security laws, regulations, and guidance required of Federal agencies, and thus, she has participated on numerous inter-agency working groups, steering committees and advisory boards. Susan was the lead author of "The Official (ISC)2 Guide to the CISSP Exam" (2004), which is a reference for professionals in the information system security field studying for the Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP) exam. Her second book "The Official (ISC)2 Guide to the ISSEP CBK" (2006) is a comprehensive guide to the Information Systems Security Engineering Model for designing and developing secure information systems within the federal government. Ms. Hansche has written numerous articles on information system security and training topics and has given many presentations at conferences and seminars.

*Additional nomination information:*

**Second Nomination:**

*Susan Hansche has been an advocate for FISSEA for many years and is more than deserving to be selected as this year's FISSEA Educator of the Year. One would think it was an oversight not to have her receive this award.*

*Susan was first elected to the FISSEA Executive Board in March 2004 on the premise of leading free workshops. Susan took her election promise to heart and was instrumental in leading 11 free workshops. Susan is a "doer" and would make an idea materialize.*

*The FISSEA board continued holding elections until March 2011 and she was continually voted to continue. Susan was first elected to serve as Board Chair in 2009 and also served as Assistant Chair. She focused executing an annual conference, conducting workshops, maintaining effective communication, increasing the membership, and promoting FISSEA in the community.*

*Always innovative and staying current, she pushed for a change in communicating with members to capitalize on new listserv technology – social networking. Susan invited people to join the FISSEA group on GovLoop for lively discussions about information security awareness, training, education, and certification environment.*

*To date, Susan continues to be active with the Technical Working Group by attending monthly meetings and providing input to the conference planning. Again, wanting to try "new" ideas she organized this year's Poster Session.*

*Susan "educated or trained" many through her presentations and workshops at the annual FISSEA conferences. She is respected by her peers and has been long overdue to receive recognition by FISSEA. Thank you, Susan, for always going the extra mile and mixing humor with competency.*

**Third nomination:**

Susan Hansche's impressive resume highlights accomplishments of an inspiring team leader who approaches projects with enthusiasm, vision and tenacity. It lists extensive qualifications in program management and instructional design experience focused on advanced training methodologies for instructor-led and technology-based training. I will not reiterate pages and pages of accomplishments and acknowledgments of her successes throughout her career. Instead, I want to describe the characteristics of her professionalism to which I can personally vouch for over the many years that I have had the pleasure of her professional acquaintance as well as the opportunity to work closely with her on many cross-government/industry projects and collaborative efforts.

First and foremost, Susan is a team builder, honest and ethical in all of her efforts, and a trusted performer who moves comfortably from vision and strategy to implementation and follow-through. Her contributions to innovative and successful IT security training and education programs have had direct impact not only for the Department of State, but more broadly, across the Federal IT security (cybersecurity) workforce.

I personally have witnessed Susan's dedication to her profession and her commitment to mutual efforts to establish common Federal (and then National) guidelines and standards for cybersecurity training, education and resource sharing.

This commitment is demonstrated by her willingness to accept additional responsibility to participate in and contribute to multiple interagency working groups over the years, including: the Information Systems Security Line of Business Tier 2 Role-Based Training Working Group; the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Education, Training, Awareness Working Group; the Federal Cybersecurity Transformation Working Group; and the Comprehensive National Cyber Initiative's Education Senior Steering Committee, which evolved into the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE). Susan has been a speaker or panelist at numerous conferences and workshops on information security training and development addressing government, academic and private sector audiences. She maintains a positive, professional demeanor throughout these appearances, in spite of an occasional 'rigorous' discussion or debate.

There can be no doubt that Susan has been a driving force in keeping FISSEA conferences and workshops aligned with current Federal IT security/information assurance and/or cybersecurity initiatives. She has significantly projected her professionalism and expertise—not to mention her passionate commitment—into FISSEA and all for which it stands. Her vision, expertise, and enthusiasm motivate others to become involved and encourages collaboration widely across all levels of government and beyond.

A long-time FISSEA member since 2003, she has been an Executive Board Member for many years. Her recommendation that FISSEA host 'free workshops' led to approximately ten (10) FISSEA Workshops over the next five years, with Susan taking responsibility for activities ranging from theme design and workshop organization, to speaker selection and invitation to registration and session facilitation. These successful workshops have been widely attended by representatives from across the civilian, defense and intelligence agencies over the years and were instrumental in promoting FISSEA as the professional forum for information sharing and collaboration on IT security/IA and cybersecurity education and training throughout the Federal government. Additionally, she has significantly contributed to the planning and

implementation of multiple annual FISSEA Conferences. Many people underestimate the long hours and personal time required for these 'honorary' positions (Executive Board Member). Susan has been a tireless advocate for the principles upon which FISSEA was founded—promoting cybersecurity training and FISSEA across Federal agencies every chance she gets.

More recently, she has been instrumental in bringing interactive and engaging learning resources to the Federal space and supported their implementation. She was an early adopter of the Federal Virtual Worlds Consortium and led a joint effort with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to plan, design and implement several instances of the Federal Cybersecurity Training Event (FedCTE). This training exercise program brings system administrators and ISSOs (and others) from multiple agencies together in both physical and virtual environments to promote interagency team building in a fully engaging and learning experience. She is now building these types of active learning engagements into the State Department curriculum as well as with offerings to other departments. She was an advisor to the planning and concept phase for DOS/Foreign Service Institute to partner with DHS to expand access to DoD's existing Virtual Training Environment (VTE) to the entire Federal government by expanding it as the FedVTE. There are many more examples of ways, via Susan's innovation, creativity and desire to be a catalyst for change across government, that she has (and continues) to take a lead role and indoctrinate others along the way.

So, after many years working for the improvement of the Federal workforce in the multiple ways mentioned above, coupled with her tireless commitment and dedication to this organization, in my opinion Ms. Susan Hansche is an exemplary example of the type of "information systems security professional" that FISSEA should be proud to name as the 2011 FISSEA Educator of the Year!