**AWARDS SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JANET LAMPERT**

Hello everyone and welcome to this year’s very special event, the Dynamic Communities User Group Summit, here in Phoenix. (**If there is anyone in particular that you want to acknowledge, do that here**) I would like to take a moment and acknowledge all of the efforts of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who has done a terrific job of organizing the details and coordinating the logistics in order to insure that this event adequately celebrates all of **YOU**, our knowledgeable, generous, enthusiastic clients, volunteers, and team members. In an era that is becoming increasingly known for its reliance on technology in every sector of our personal and professional lives, it’s gratifying to know that there are teams of qualified, insightful, and professional partners in our User Group, ready, willing, and able to share considerable talents and expertise, all with the intention of supporting others in having greater clarity and a more seamless and in depth working knowledge of the products we offer along with their wide reaching adaptability and versatility.

Every generation or so, there’s an evolution and then a **REVolution**. Bill Gates himself reminds us, “If you go back to 1800, everybody was poor. I mean everybody. Then the industrial revolution kicked in and many people benefited...” It wasn’t that long ago that our own new era of technological advancement was questioned. The uninitiated...those suffering from the “isolation of ignorance,” thought, and I’m sure there are still some holdouts, that so many of the visionaries working to innovate, had “their heads in the clouds.” Guess what??? As we know, **EVERYTHING** is in the cloud now!!! We’re all in!! (**Wait for the laugh**). As our technology advances, and as options and the ubiquitous nature of the core of our work and products become more and more obvious, individuals, industries, professions... **ALL** of us will have greater, expanded opportunities for almost infinite accessibility, interface, productivity, and connectivity.

These are very exciting times in which we are living and the efforts and support you provide form the backbone of digital strength and understanding... something that is so vital and important to what we do and what we hope to achieve as a leader in every sector imaginable.

Thanks to the evolution of software capabilities, it is also clear that we are experiencing, as a society, a shift in the way in which we relate to one another... in how we do business, how we affect and support commerce, how we fundamentally communicate. We are all part of a new, modern community, and although we may not **YET** have the facility to knock on a neighbor’s door to “borrow a cup of sugar,” ... although I have a feeling somehow that will be figured out... (**Wait for the laugh**) we are there for each other in virtual and ever expanding ways.

Your community... **OUR COMMUNITY** of teachers, advisors, helpers, suggesters, has had an impressive impact on the accessibility and functionality of our products, and I **KNOW** that enthusiasm and drive that each one of you so selflessly demonstrates is only going to grow geometrically.

What you’ve done collectively over the past year (**?**) is impressive and forms a great base from which to expand even further...

* You delivered over 50,000 hours of educational training
* You delivered over 800 webinars to over 5000 people
* You delivered conferences to over 11,000 people

You accomplished all of that ... and even managed to have fun and make a difference along the way!! (**Mention the one or two stories here... maybe just one or two sentences for each**)... The chapter team fundraiser for toys for kids was inspirational, and who will forget celebrating that meeting in Yankee Stadium... You are beacons of multi-tasking wizardry!

...And here we are. The time has come when we will be recognizing you who have so selflessly and graciously offered your time and talents to foster the advancement of understanding of our products and services. Your participation encourages us, as a company, to increasingly raise the bar regarding what we offer and its impact on business and personal computing. Acknowledgement is our way of encouraging dialogue and fostering even greater participation, and I know that as we present to our Gemstone Award Winners, Chapter Award Winners and the first-ever Channel Marketing Alliance Brooke Webb Smith Memorial Award, new ideas will be born, new methods of creative connection will be formed, new ideas for innovation and understanding will be hatched. How do I know? Because I have seen your excellent work. You are leaders and it is a privilege to work with you.

We have all heard the proverb, “Give a person a fish and you feed him or her for a day. **TEACH** that person to fish and you feed them for a **LIFETIME**.” Thank you all for your patience, resourcefulness and determination as you support so many users around the world and teach them to fish “virtually.” It’s s so true!! In order to be able to participate in this modern world of ours, skills are required and to many, those skills... that information base... the “How To” is daunting. And the deeper we go into relying on technology, the more people out there will realize they must “learn how to fish” from **YOU**. Your expert guidance, patience, and enthusiasm for our products literally allow people to “feed themselves.” it is through your creative participation that our technology can be pervasive and accessible to all. Come to think of it... maybe we should change to “Ocean computing” ... **beyond the cloud**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Who knows how **deep** we can go as we increase our participation to new levels!!

Here’s to even greater impact on an industry and sector that is perpetually morphing and innovating. Thank you for your continued support!