



Left to Right: Matt Johnson, President, ITA, Robert W. Schwartz, President, Madison Communications and Eric Schmidt, Chairman ITA Board of Directors

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Illinois Telecommunications Association Announces  
Person of Distinction Award Winner**

Springfield, IL – During its 2014 Annual Meeting and Convention, the Illinois Telecommunications Association (ITA) announced a new recipient of its prestigious Person of Distinction Award. This honor is bestowed upon an individual who exemplifies dedicated service, commitment, and outstanding contributions toward the advancement of telecommunications and broadband services throughout the State of Illinois.

The ITA awarded Robert W. Schwartz, President of Madison Communications Company, Staunton, IL with the Association's highest honor during its Annual Meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

"Bob Schwartz has been a guiding force for the Illinois Telecommunications Association for decades. His entrepreneurial spirit, support of the community and positive outlook have been a model for other companies, and the ITA Board of Directors wanted to recognize Bob for his immeasurable contributions to the Association and the industry," said Matt Johnson, President of the Illinois Telecommunications Association.

"This is a tremendous honor" said Robert Schwartz of Madison Communications Company. Bob accepted the award from Matt Johnson, President, and Eric Schmidt, Chairman, of the ITA Board of Directors. During his acceptance speech, Bob recognized all Madison employees for their continued commitment to their customers. Mr. Schwartz reflected on his tenure and humbly challenged the Association members present to always embrace challenges brought on by changes in the communications industry, and to never lose focus on finding new and innovative opportunities to serve the best interests of their customers.

During the 109-year history of the ITA, nine individuals have been honored and selected to receive the ITA Person of Distinction Award. This award maintains its' prestigious status through a diligent review of the candidate being submitted for consideration. The submission of a candidate to the ITA Board of Directors for this honor is kept highly guarded and is not released to the general ITA Membership until such time that consensus is reached that the candidate is determined to be worthy of this honor.

The Illinois Telecommunications Association creates a forum for its members to identify and to examine issues of importance; to foster collaboration among its members; and to present on behalf of the telecommunications industry a unified position on matters of importance before the regulatory and legislative bodies of Illinois.

Madison Communications Company is a fully integrated service provider of high speed Internet access, digital phone, HD entertainment programming, and other IP solutions to residential and business customers in Southwestern Illinois. It has a tradition of providing personal service, offering the most innovative products and services while giving back to the communities in which it serves. For more information, please visit us online at [www.gomadison.com](http://www.gomadison.com), or by dialing 1-800-422-4848.