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## IABC Announces 2015 Rae Hamlin Award Winner

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) has announced its 2015 Rae Hamlin Award winner as Neil Griffiths ABC of London, UK. The Rae Hamlin Award recognizes an IABC volunteer for their work and impact at the grass-roots level in advancing certification in their chapter, region or workplace.

IABC International Chair, Russell Grossman ABC, said, "As one of the founding members of the Global Communications Certification Council, Neil helped shepherd the development of the Communication Management Professional (CMP) exam, that will be offered for the first time during this year's World Conference. Working closely with other members of the Council, Neil exhibited a diligence to assure this new program not only meets ISO standards but also honors the values of its predecessor, the ABC."

"I am honored to accept this award and join the many distinguished names on the Rae Hamlin recipient list," Griffiths said. "Like Rae, I strongly believe in the practice of great communication. I am so proud to have been part of a body of work that will give communication professionals around the world the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to practice according to a global standard. This continues Rae's legacy and honors all those who worked tirelessly to support accreditation over the years. I look forward to seeing the certification program grow in the years ahead."

Neil is currently Internal Communications Manager at Environmental Resources Management, where he supports business strategy through effective employee communication. For the past 10 years he has worked in communication management across a variety of public, private and non-profit organizations.

Neil has held a number of leadership positions and served on several global committees within IABC, most recently as part of the inaugural Global Communications Certification Council. Neil is a Past Chair of IABC's Europe, Middle East & North Africa region and in 2013 was named IABC's Regional Leader of the Year. Together with co-author Deborah Hinton, Neil has published two studies on the current and future state of the communication profession, *Where are we now? Where should we be?* and *We have met the enemy and he is us*, and has spoken on the topic at several conferences.

The award is named in honor of the late Rae Hamlin, ABC, who was instrumental in the development and success of the former IABC accreditation program. In her 25 years with IABC, Hamlin managed and inspired volunteers worldwide to promote this global strategic communication management standard, including a holding a role as accreditation staff coordinator at IABC headquarters in San Francisco. She passed away in 2009.

In 2015 IABC transitioned from its former accreditation offering to a new global certification program, and the Rae Hamlin Award will continue to be awarded to honor ABCs and CMPs alike. Griffiths will be presented with the award at the Excellence Awards Gala at IABC World Conference on Monday 15 June in San Francisco, California.

*\*ABC = Accredited Business Communicator*

### **About IABC:**

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) enables a global network of communicators working in diverse industries and disciplines to identify, share, and apply the world's best communication practices. IABC is recognized as the professional association of choice for communicators who aspire to excel in their chosen fields. For more information, visit [www.iabc.com](http://www.iabc.com).

# IABC INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS

**About the ABC:**

The ABC (Accredited Business Communicator) was an award run by IABC which accredited communicators through a rigorous process, including assessment of professional portfolios and a written and oral exam. The program ran from 1973 and closed in 2013. There are just over one thousand ABCs globally, comprising senior subject matter experts IABC calls on for leadership knowledge, expertise, and experience. The successor to the ABC is the Communications Management Professional, which will be offered globally across the communications profession and be eligible in due course to be certified to ISO 17024 standard. The first CMPs will be awarded later in 2015.

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