

## City of Lawrence Solid Waste Division receives excellence in program operations award

The City of Lawrence Solid Waste Division received the **Excellence In Program Operations Award** at the 2015 American Public Works Association (APWA) Kansas Chapter Conference in Manhattan, Kansas on May 14th.

The City of Lawrence Solid Waste Division offers comprehensive solid waste management services for residential, commercial, and industrial customers in a community of approximately 90,000 people. While the City has been the exclusive hauler of residential trash since the mid-1940's, the program has undergone major changes in the last four years. The evolution of services resulted from an intentional and purposeful public input process, resulting in changes in service delivery methods and types of services offered. This summary highlights some of the unique characteristics of the process which brought the city to the current state of operations, including:

- Solid Waste Task Force;
- Containerization of trash service with variable rate pricing;
- First in State of Kansas to navigate new statute on establishing an organized collection service;
- Competitive process for selecting curbside recycling collection provider and material recovery facility; and
- Comprehensive education and outreach to launch new services.

The City of Lawrence demonstrated strong commitment to an open and participatory process that values education and communication for residents, employees, and policy makers through period of unprecedented change for the community. Program changes greatly improved worker safety, created equity in residential rates, and expanded services to include single-stream (with glass) residential curbside recycling.



Left to right: Craig Pruett, Solid Waste Operations Supervisor, Kathy Richardson, Solid Waste Division Manager, and Brett Letkowski, APWA Kansas Chapter Executive Committee Member.