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Socket honors Fulton native

Socket has named Fulton native Brian Fitch as a runner-up for its sixth annual Socketeer-of-the-Year award. Tony Lana was named the winner and Russ Mulkey was also honored as a runner-up. Owners George Pfenenger, John Dupuy and Carson Coffman presented the honors at Socket's annual holiday celebration.

Fitch has been with Socket since 2005 and currently holds the title of business center supervisor, in which he oversees quality support for Socket's business clients. Fitch is a 2000 graduate of Fulton High School and obtained a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Missouri. He enjoys playing golf, watching movies and traveling.

Each month, co-workers nominate and vote for an employee who best reflects Socket's Core Values and

Beliefs. All winners are then eligible for the annual honor. Fellow employees submitted comments to help the owners make their decision.

"It's always difficult to choose a winner because we have so many incredible people," said Pfenenger. "This year, we felt Tony, as well as Russ and Brian, all deserved recognition."

Founded in 1994, Socket is a Columbia-based telephone and Internet service provider with the largest service coverage in the state. Socket is a privately held company that provides Columbia families and businesses a choice for local and long-distance phone and Internet service. It combines the highest quality customer service with in-depth technical knowledge. Socket's network serves more than

20,000 residents and businesses in more than 400 Missouri cities, and its customers enjoy simple billing and quick, friendly service.