

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer I. Curtin, MPA

Director of Public Affairs

410.430.1785

jcurtin@agacgfm.org

Improving Government Performance Headlines Upcoming AGA Conference

Alexandria, VA – Dynamic speakers will share valuable insights on improving government financial management at the Association of Government Accountants' (AGA's) 3rd Annual National Leadership Conference. The conference, set for Feb. 7-8, is expected to attract more than 450 government leaders to the International Trade Center - The Ronald Reagan Building, in Washington, D.C.

Sound financial management is more important than ever. Governments are grappling with a growing list of homeland security issues — how to keep our cities and our nation safe, and how to pay for it. In this environment, financial managers will take center stage, confronting these challenges and the difficulties of balancing the many competing demands on taxpayers' money. At the same time, governments are focusing more intently on performance to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, and can be accounted for later. These developments are bringing financial managers into the spotlight.

State governments, receiving fewer dollars from the federal government, are facing budget crises of their own. In turn, local governments are making tough decisions on how to stretch scarce dollars. Tough times mean cooperation is paramount.

Dynamic speakers and sessions include:

- **"Will There be Joy in Mudville? DC's CFO Office Will Make the Call,"** with N. Anthony Calhoun, CGFM, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, District of Columbia;
- **"The Presidential Election & Its Impact on Managing Government Operations,"** with Paul C. Light, Senior Fellow, Governance Studies and Director, Center for Public Service, The Brookings Institution;
- **"Improving Financial Management Reporting,"** with Andrew B. Maner, MBA, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security;
- **"Governing by Network: The New Shape of the Public Sector,"** with Stephen Goldsmith, Daniel Paul Professor of Government, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University;
- **"Evolving Role of the CFO: What Does the Future Hold?"** with Natwar M. Gandhi, CGFM, Chief Financial Officer, District of Columbia, Edward L. Long Jr., Chief Financial Officer, Fairfax County, VA, Samuel T. Mok, CGFM, CIA, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Labor, and,
- **"The 2004 Presidential Election: A Media Perspective,"** with Bettina Gregory, Veteran Correspondent, ABC News

Government financial managers are expected to make accountability their top priority. This national conference is a must for anyone working on the front lines of government financial management and involved in overseeing the direction of their agencies. In an age of heightened security and an increased demand for services, the three levels of government are ever more dependent upon each other. Join us to hear from top-ranking government leaders who are facing these challenges head on.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Improving Government Performance: Financial Managers Take Center Stage**" and it will bring together more than 450 federal, state and local government leaders to discuss leadership issues and common challenges in today's complex environment.

To review information about this conference go to www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2005/index.aspx. If you would like to obtain press credentials to attend this conference, please contact Jennifer I. Curtin, MPA, at 410.430.1785, or at jcurtin@agacgfm.org.

The Association of Government Accountants is an 15,000-member professional Association devoted to meeting the continuing professional education needs of financial managers at all levels of government, the private sector and academia. For more information about the Association, or the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, call 800.AGA.7211, or visit our website at www.agacgfm.org.

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