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**Nine Federal Agencies to Receive Prestigious AGA Award for Performance Reporting Excellence**

**Alexandria, VA** – The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) will present the prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Award to the Departments of Education, the Interior, Labor and State, as well as the Federal Aviation Administration, Government Accountability Office, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Patent and Trademark Office and Social Security Administration, on Wednesday, May 24. The CEAR Award recognizes the agencies' outstanding Fiscal Year 2005 Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs).

Federal government performance and accountability reports are becoming more informative and better written, thus making them increasingly useful for those with oversight responsibilities or a special interest in an agency. The comprehensive AGA review process determined that the PARs issued by these nine agencies met the criteria for excellence.

Clay Johnson III, Acting Director and Deputy Director for Management, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, will present the awards to the nine recipient agencies at a black-tie dinner on May 24, 2006 at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C. If you would like credentials to attend the event, or if you require further information about the CEAR Program, please contact Jennifer Curtin, at 800.242.7211, ext. 340, or [jcurtin@agacqfm.org](mailto:jcurtin@agacqfm.org).

As the Office of Management and Budget guides the implementation of the improved financial management portion of the President's Management Agenda, the production of high-quality PARs becomes more important. Now in its ninth year, AGA's CEAR Program seeks to further this effort by providing agencies with valuable feedback designed to improve future reports.

According to the CEAR Program Technical Director, Harold I. Steinberg, CGFM, "Agencies have started to issue summary reports to present just the highlights of their accomplishments and accountability. Several are also issuing CD-ROMs that contain the report, and connect the user to the Internet so he/she can obtain additional information related to what they are reading.

"An agency's PAR is a tangible demonstration to taxpayers that they are willing to be accountable and taking the effort to be so. Readers can obtain considerable information about the agency and its programs, thereby learning what the agency does and how they benefit," stated Steinberg.

AGA is a 13,000-member professional Association devoted to meeting the continuing professional education needs of accountability professionals 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 800.242.7211 or visit [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

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