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AGA's CEAR Ceremony Features Remarks by OMB's Clay Johnson

Clay Johnson, Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget, is scheduled to speak at a Sept. 15 ceremony on the achievements of the 10 federal agencies that have received AGA's prestigious *Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting*.

Linda Springer, Controller at OMB's Office of Federal Financial Management, will also make remarks at the 12:30 p.m. ceremony, to be held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Education Secretary Rod Paige and Under Secretary Edward R. McPherson are scheduled to attend, as the Department of Education is a first-time recipient of the Certificate of Excellence for its excellent Performance and Accountability Report (PAR).

Other first-time recipients are the Federal Aviation Administration and the General Services Administration. The other agencies to receive awards are: the Department of State, Department of Labor, Department of the Interior, Government Accountability Office, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Patent and Trademark Office and the Social Security Administration.

Producing high-quality PARs has never been more important. OMB is guiding the effort to implement the President's Management Agenda, with the idea of bringing a more business-like approach to federal government operations. With improved financial management as one of the five goals of the agenda, OMB is requiring agencies to accelerate financial reporting. For fiscal year 2004, agencies face a Nov. 15 reporting deadline, which is 45 days after fiscal year end.

With such tight deadlines, the CEAR Program's rigorous review will be even more valuable to agencies. This year's recipients were chosen for giving readers a clear assessment of program performance, the cost of meeting program goals and a vivid picture of the agency's finances. In all, 18 agencies submitted their fiscal year 2003 PARs for review, demonstrating their commitment to the President's Management Agenda and improved financial and performance reporting.

For going on seven years, AGA has helped agencies meet the requirements of OMB and the Reports and Consolidation Act to combine performance and financial information so ordinary citizens can easily evaluate government programs and their costs.



AGA, along with others from the government performance and accountability community, will honor the 10 federal agencies and the individuals most responsible for producing the award-winning reports.

If you would like to attend the event, or if you would like further information about the CEAR Program, please contact Lisa Thatcher, director of the CEAR Program, at 800.242.7211, ext. 212, or lthatcher@agacqfm.org.

The AGA is a 15,000-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.agacqfm.org.

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