



For More Information:

Erin Birmingham | Marketing & Communications Manager
800.AGA.7211, ext. 308 | ebirmingham@agacgfm.org

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City of Urbandale, Iowa Subject of Two Winning AGA Citizen-Centric Reports

Alexandria, Va.—The Association of Government Accountants, or AGA, is proud to announce that students from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the City University of New York, College of Staten Island are the winners of the 2020 Government Finance Case Challenge for each of their Citizen-Centric Reports (CCR) for City of Urbandale, Iowa.

Graduate students from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and undergraduate students from the College of Staten Island took the top honors for their concise and informative CCRs and creative video presentations. The winning projects provided an in-depth review of the city’s budget, expenditures, performance metrics, goals, and future challenges. Armed with the new CCR materials, the leaders of Urbandale, IA are equipped to communicate value to their citizens.

“Citizens desire and are entitled to accurate and timely information about how their government is spending their taxpayer dollars,” said AGA CEO Ann Ebberts. “Programs like the AGA’s Government Finance Case Challenge and Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) provide value in two critically important areas. First, the Case Challenge opens the eyes of college students to the vast amount of publicly available data about their local government entities and they learn the value of transparency. Second, the “target city” receives creative examples they can leverage to inform their citizens about the value provided for their tax dollars. The transparency and accountability demonstrated through a citizen centric report is a big step towards restoring citizen trust in government.

Since 2007, government entities have created and submitted more than 655 CCRs to AGA for review. AGA provides constructive feedback to help government entities continue to improve how they communicate to citizen about funds spent, services provided, and outlook for the future.

Every fall, AGA invites students from across the country to compete in the Government Finance Case Challenge to create a CCR for a government entity for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship for each participant on the winning teams.

During the competition, students form teams to analyze data and develop a CCR for a specified U.S. state, city, or county government. Submissions are judged by a panel of government finance experts and the top teams present their findings via video. The challenge gives students a new perspective on their moral reasoning, raises awareness of the importance of accountability and opens doors to a career in government. Learn more about AGA’s Government Finance Case Challenge [here](#).

About AGA

AGA is the member organization for financial professionals in government. We lead and encourage change that benefits our field and all citizens. Our networking events, professional certification,

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publications, and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance their careers. For more information, visit www.aqacqfm.org.