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AGA Recognizes Government Leaders and Financial Management Professionals at National Leadership Training

Alexandria, Va. — AGA is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 National Leadership Awards, presented at AGA's National Leadership Training (NLT) event, held virtually on February 24-5, 2021. The six annual awards recognize individuals for significant contributions to the government financial management profession in the previous year. Awards and winners include:

Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award

Jay Poole, CPA, CIA, CFE, CGMA
City Auditor, Chesapeake, Virginia

William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award

Meredith Barrieau
First Deputy Auditor, State of Massachusetts

Excellence in Government Leadership Award

Deborah V. Loveless, CGFM, CPA, CGMA
Retired Director, Division of State Audit, State of Tennessee

Elmer Staats Award

Brett M. Baker, Ph.D., CPA, CISA
Assistant Inspector General for Audit, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Andy Barr Award

Srikant K. Sastry, CGFM
Managing Principal of Advisory Services, Cherry Bekaert LLP

Distinguished Federal Leadership Award

Tom Harker, CPA
Acting Secretary of the Navy, U.S. Department of Defense

AGA CEO Ann Ebberts said AGA enjoys recognizing leaders in the broad government financial management community who head agencies and drive initiatives to improve government accountability and transparency. "It is great to be able to showcase these leaders for their peers at NLT, an educational event AGA hosts to focus on professional and personal development," she added.

Eight college students who received scholarship awards to attend NLT 2021 through AGA's National Collegiate Leadership Program (NCLP) were also honored during the virtual event. NCLP offers students an opportunity to engage with and learn from government financial leaders throughout the event, including special sessions and one-on-one mentoring.

The 2021 NCLP scholarship recipients include: Joshua Awoyera, Morgan State University; Rachel Bender and Melody Brown, Cameron University; Austin Kays, Missouri State University; Seth Matthews, Mississippi College; Tafadzwa Nianike, Auburn University at Montgomery; Zachary Wages, Bowie State University; and Dominic Ryan Vince Cruz, Washington College.

"I was impressed with the caliber of AGA's National Collegiate Scholarship winners," Ebberts noted. "I hope the sessions they attended and their interactions with the AGA leaders who served as their mentors helped open their eyes to the real impact financial professionals can make in government."

To learn more about AGA and its programs, see AGA's [website](#).

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

