



2013 ACCG AWARDS PROGRAM

Important Dates

Applications for awards are must be received by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia by

March 8, 2013

(County Clerk of the Year Award nominations due March 15, 2013 by 5:00 p.m.)

ACCG Leadership Awards

Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Leadership Awards are the highest honors given to elected or appointed county officials or other individuals who have made significant contributions through public service in local government and other involvement within the community and/or the state level. Individuals may be nominated for these awards by a county elected or appointed official, an individual, an organization or an ACCG staff member. The recipients of ACCG Leadership Awards are selected by the Board of Managers Awards Committee, led by the ACCG third vice-president, and recognized at the ACCG Annual Meeting.

To nominate an individual for one of the ACCG Leadership Awards, please complete and submit the enclosed application by March 8, 2013.

Emory Greene Leadership Award

Since its inception in 1990, The Emory Greene Leadership Award is recognized as the highest award presented by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). This award is named in honor of the late Emory Greene, Chairman of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners and former ACCG President, who was not only an outstanding leader in his home county, but was also a statewide leader who served on a number of boards and commissions. The Emory Greene Leadership Award recognizes **a county commissioner** who has made significant contributions in the local community and at the state level.

Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award

The Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award was created to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the citizens of the State of Georgia through public service in county government. This award is named in honor of Jerry Griffin, whose career followed a strong path of state and local government positions, progressing from the Georgia Municipal Association, to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (now known as the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority) before serving as ACCG Executive Director for over 23 years. Throughout his professional career, Griffin was a recognized leader who established a solid foundation of programs and services that still exist today. The Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award recognizes **an appointed county staff member or another individual** who has had a lasting impact through county government public service and/or in his or her community.

ACCG Partnership and Advocacy Awards

Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Partnership and Advocacy Awards are given to recognize individuals and organizations that further the mission of county government and/or the association. Individuals or organizations may be nominated for these awards by a county elected or appointed official, an individual, an organization or an ACCG staff member. The recipients of ACCG Leadership Awards are selected by an Awards Committee comprised of ACCG Partners and other individuals that are not county officials, and recognized at the ACCG Annual Meeting.

To nominate an individual or organization for one of the ACCG Partnership or Advocacy Awards, please complete and submit the enclosed application by March 8, 2013.

Public-Private Partnership of the Year Award

ACCG recognizes that public-private partnerships make county government more efficient and cost-effective. The Public-Private Partnership of the Year Award recognizes a company that has worked with a county to deliver a valuable public benefit, service or resource that positively impacts the county's citizens. The company's project with the county should meet some or all of the following criteria:

- Requires collaboration between the company and the county and incorporates creative solutions.
- Improves service delivery and/or provides a cost savings to the county.
- Provides a positive impact on the quality of life for the county's citizens.

County Government Media Advocate of the Year Award

One of the oldest principles of journalism recognizes media as the watchdog of government. ACCG recognizes that the media serves a primary role in providing timely and accurate information to the public about county government. The Media Partner of the Year Award recognizes an individual reporter or media outlet which has made extraordinary contributions in this area, meeting some or all of the following criteria:

- Works to understand the roles and responsibilities of county government by establishing relationships with county elected and appointed officials as primary sources of information.
- Provides positive media coverage on county programs, services and issues.
- Provides positive media coverage that furthers the mission of ACCG to provide leadership development, civic engagement, legislative advocacy and cost-efficient services to county elected and appointed officials and their communities.

Legislative Advocate of the Year

ACCG's history has been rooted in legislative advocacy since 1914, when 19 counties came together to work on transportation issues. Today, the association's consensus-building policy development process depends on the involvement of elected and appointed county officials. Successful legislative advocacy further depends upon an actively engaged grassroots network that follows legislation at the state and federal level. The Legislative Advocate of the Year Award recognizes an individual or organization which has made extraordinary contributions in this area, meeting some or all of the following criteria:

- Actively participates in the ACCG policy development process by serving on at least one ACCG Policy Committee.
- Regularly attends the ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference to participate in the approval of the County Platform and the ACCG Capitol Connection Conference to learn about legislative issues under discussion.
- Has established a good working relationship with state and federal legislators and regularly communicates concerns about legislative issues.
- Supports the work of the ACCG policy team by visiting the State Capitol to testify on behalf of legislation or to meet one on one with legislators.

Civic and Community Engagement Advocate of the Year

ACCG strongly believes that civic and community engagement is a critical component of operating a successful county government. Through civic and community engagement, counties can educate and motivate the public to become more involved in local government. The Civic and Community Engagement Advocate of the Year Award recognizes an individual or organization which has made extraordinary contributions in this area, meeting some or all of the following criteria:

- Participates in county civic engagement programs for high school and college students such as the Georgia Civic Awareness Programs for Students (GCAPS), the Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) or other county-based programs.
- Offers workshops and forums to discuss county government processes and issues for the public.
- Provides educational videos, pamphlets, guidebooks or other information that assist the general public in learning about county government.

Leadership Development Advocate of the Year

ACCG views the development of leaders for Georgia counties and their citizens as a primary goal and responsibility of the organization. The Leadership Development Advocate of the Year recognizes an individual or organization which has made extraordinary contributions in this area, meeting some or all of the following criteria:

- Supports leadership development through participation in ACCG's education programs.
- Supports leadership development through participation in community-based education programs.
- Encourages county officials to participate in education and leadership development programs.
- Demonstrates the lessons learned in education and leadership development programs through innovation, sharing information and giving back to the community.

ACCG Section Awards

County Clerk of the Year Award

While the responsibilities of the clerks vary from county to county, these individuals play an integral role in supporting elected and appointed officials and fulfilling many of the day-to-day responsibilities of county government. Each year, the Georgia County Clerks Association selects a county clerk to receive the honor of County Clerk of the Year. This award recognizes outstanding performance and professionalism in government as performed by the county clerk.

Nominations for County Clerk of the Year are sent directly to the Georgia County Clerks Association 2012-2013 Recognition Awards Committee and are due no later than **March 15, 2013 no later than 5:00 p.m.** The nomination form is available online at: <http://www.accg.org> under "Civic Engagement."