



## PRESS RELEASE

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## Governmental Research Association Announces Award Winners

*Rochester, NY, August 11, 2014* – At its August 5, 2014 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., the Governmental Research Association (GRA) conferred awards on six entrants to its annual awards competition. Awards were given in three categories: Most Distinguished Research, Outstanding Policy Achievement, and Most Effective Education.

GRA also conferred the **Frederick Gruenberg** award for lifetime achievement on the longtime leader of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, Ran Coble.

### Most Distinguished Research

**Award-** [North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research](#), Raleigh, NC: *Telepsychiatry in North Carolina: Mental Health Care Comes to You*

**Award-** [Center for Governmental Research](#), Rochester, NY: *The Future of County Owned Nursing Homes in New York State*

**Certificate of Merit-** [Bureau of Governmental Research](#), New Orleans, LA: *The Accidental Steward: The Orleans Parish School Board as a Resource Manager in the Reform Era*

**Certificate of Merit-** [Citizens Research Council of Michigan](#), Livonia & Lansing, MI: *Reform of Michigan's Ballot Question Process*

### Outstanding Policy Achievement

**Award-** [Bureau of Governmental Research](#), New Orleans, LA: *Reform of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans*

**Award-** [North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research](#), Raleigh, NC: *Preventing and Prosecuting Fraud Committed Against Elderly in North Carolina*

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## Most Effective Education

**Award-** [Public Policy Forum](#), Milwaukee, WI: *Exploring the Needs and Funding Options for Milwaukee's Cultural and Entertainment Assets*

**Award-** [Citizens Research Council of Michigan](#), Livonia & Lansing, MI: *Medical Costs of No-fault Automobile Insurance*

**Award-** [Bureau of Governmental Research](#), New Orleans, LA: *Benchmarking the Bench: Are Public Dollars Being Wasted on Excess Judgeships in Orleans Parish?*

**Certificate of Merit-** [Utah Foundation](#), Salt Lake City, UT: *Climbing Toward the American Dream: A Second Analysis of Economic Mobility in Utah*

## Gruenberg Award

The citation conferring the Frederick Gruenberg Award to Ran Coble, retiring President of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, read:

*In recognition of his 33 years of service to the citizens of North Carolina through his work at the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. Respected as a think tank, watchdog, and futurist, the Center's much deserved reputation for independent research, findings, insights, and recommendations is due to his leadership. His unwavering commitment to excellence challenged, inspired, and elevated the work of his colleagues and set a standard that all in the profession should aspire to achieve. The Center studies he directed led to policy improvements in education, health and human services, the environment, and taxes and budget. He conducted groundbreaking research on special provisions in state budgets, domestic violence, a state civil rights act for persons with disabilities, and voting rights. During his tenure, the Center has been a voice for improving the legislative process and making it more open and transparent. His work has made North Carolina a better place to live for all people.*

The Annual Meeting of the GRA also elected Rob Henken, President of the Public Policy Forum (Milwaukee), as President and Peter Reichard, Research Director of the Bureau of Governmental Research (New Orleans), as Vice President.

## Guidelines for Awards

**Most Distinguished Research.** This award shall recognize an outstanding research effort by a government research agency. The award shall be based on the challenge of the subject matter, the degree to which the study is ground-breaking, and how well the basic purpose of

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the report is carried out. Other criteria shall include: the use of new and/or innovative research methods, or new and/or innovative uses of existing methods; usefulness of the study to other states and/or municipalities; whether or not the subject is one of critical national, regional, or local concern or costs.

**Outstanding Policy Achievement.** This award shall recognize tangible improvements in public policy, management, service delivery, and/or cost savings resulting from the research and recommendations of a governmental research agency. The award may also take into account the qualitative characteristics of the relevant research. Although there is no time limit on when the report was issued, the results must have taken place within the period described in III.E, above.

**Most Effective Education.** This award shall recognize research and/or educational activities that are intended to educate the public and/or public officials on governmental matters, without necessarily embodying recommendations for change or improvement. The report and/or activities should have increased or broadened awareness or understanding of an important government issue, thereby enabling more informed public discourse and decision-making. The award shall be based on the informational content of the report and/or activities, and on the manner in which the subject matter is communicated to achieve the agency's educational purposes. Consideration shall also be given to the methods used to ensure the most effective and comprehensible communication, especially non-print and/or multimedia presentations.

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**About GRA:** The Governmental Research Association, founded in 1914, is the national organization of individuals professionally engaged in governmental research. The purpose of the Association is to encourage individuals and organizations to engage in governmental research in the general interest. Governmental research involves the collection, analysis, and distribution of factual information on governmental activities to citizens and officials for the improvement of government and the reduction of its cost.

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