



PRESS RELEASE

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Governmental Research Association Announces Award Winners

Rochester, NY, July 28, 2017 – At its July 18, 2017 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Governmental Research Association (GRA) conferred awards on eight 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 to the immediate past president of the [Utah Foundation](#), Stephen J. Hershey Kroes.

Most Distinguished Research

Award- [Bureau of Governmental Research](#), New Orleans, LA: *Beneath the Surface: A Primer on Stormwater Fees in New Orleans*

Award- [Utah Foundation](#), Salt Lake City, UT: *Utah Priorities Project*

Certificate of Merit- [Washington Research Council](#), Seattle, WA: *The Growth Management Act at 25 Years*

Outstanding Policy Achievement

Award- [Bureau of Governmental Research](#), New Orleans, LA: *New Orleans Firefighter Pension Reform*

Award- [Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations](#), Nashville, TN: *Municipal Boundaries in Tennessee: Annexation and Growth Planning Policies After Public Chapter 707*

Most Effective Education

Award- [Louisiana Association of Business and Industry](#): *Louisiana Business Tax Policy: Research, Awareness, and Advocacy*

Award- [Public Policy Forum](#), Milwaukee, WI: *The Last Mile: Connecting Workers to Places of Employment*

Certificate of Merit- [Citizens Research Council of Michigan](#), Detroit, MI: *Detroit Public Schools' Legacy Costs and Indebtedness*

Certificate of Merit- [The Civic Federation](#), Chicago, IL: *A Profile of Unincorporated Areas in Cook County and Recommendations to Facilitate Incorporation*

Gruenberg Award

The GRA Trustees conferred the Frederick Gruenberg Award on Stephen J. Hershey Kroes, immediate past President of the [Utah Foundation](#),

in recognition of his outstanding contribution to governmental research over three decades, most recently through his leadership of Utah Foundation.

While in Utah, Steve has served as a member of Utah Governor Herbert's Education Excellence Commission, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors for four Utah governors, and a member of the state Health Data Committee. He is also a member of the Salt Lake Chamber's Utah Economic Council. In addition, Steve spent five years on the Cedar Hills City Planning Commission.

Before being recruited by the Utah Foundation Board of Trustees in 2001, Steve was in Sacramento where he served as Vice President of California Taxpayers' Association and was a manager with Synergy Consulting, working for state government agencies on technology projects.

Steve received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Brigham Young University and a Master of Public Administration degree from University of Southern California.

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 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.

At the discretion of the awards committees, multiple awards can be conferred on local, regional and statewide submissions.

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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.
