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New Bright Ideas Recognizes Innovative Government Programs

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Selects 173 Noteworthy Government Programs and Practices

Cambridge, Mass. – Today the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, announced 173 government programs selected for its newly-created Bright Ideas program. In its inaugural year, Bright Ideas is designed to recognize and share creative government initiatives around the country with interested public sector, nonprofit, and academic communities.

Bright Ideas seeks to complement the long-standing Innovations in American Government Awards Program by providing government agencies with a collection of new solutions that can be considered and adopted today. This new program serves to recognize promising government programs and partnerships that government officials, public servants, and others might find useful when faced with their own challenges.

This year's cohort of Bright Ideas was chosen by a team of expert evaluators made up of academics, practitioners, and former public servants. Selected from a pool of nearly 600 applicants including smaller-scale pilots, 2010 Bright Ideas address a range of pressing issues including poverty reduction, environmental conservation, and emergency management.

"For over 20 years we have been honoring the country's most creative public sector initiatives through our Innovations in American Government Awards Program," said Anthony Saich, director of the Ash Center. "The creation of Bright Ideas was a natural next step to shed light on an even greater number of noteworthy programs and practices across our nation and to encourage practitioners to make these ideas work in their own backyards."

The 2010 Bright Ideas will be showcased on the Center's Government Innovators Network, an online marketplace of ideas and examples of government innovation for policymakers and practitioners. The inaugural group of Bright Ideas will serve as a cornerstone of a new online community where innovative ideas are proposed, shared, and disseminated. The Ash Center also envisions that these Bright Ideas have the potential to become future Innovations in American Government winners.

Bright Ideas is an initiative of the Ash Center's Innovations in Government Program, which spotlights exemplary models of government innovation and advances efforts to address the nation's most pressing public concerns. Throughout its history, the program has generated a wealth of research based on award-winning government innovations and the study of how innovation occurs.

The Ash Center will be accepting applications and recognizing more Bright Ideas on a rolling basis throughout the year. Learn more about the Bright Ideas program here.

For more information, please contact:

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About the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Roy and Lila Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence and innovation in governance and public policy through research, education, and public discussion. Three major programs support our mission: the Program on Democratic Governance; the Innovations in Government Program; and the Rajawali Foundation Institute for Asia. For more information, visit www.ash.harvard.edu.

2010 Bright Ideas

A full description of each program is available here»

ALABAMA

- Adoption Home Recruitment – State of Alabama
- homeworkalabama.org – State of Alabama
- Lease Search – State of Alabama

ALASKA

- Hiland Mountain Correctional Center Inmate String Orchestra – State of Alaska

ARIZONA

- Curley School Project – Pima County, Ariz.
- Deweyless Libraries – Maricopa County, Ariz.
- Election Reporting System – Maricopa County, Ariz.
- Gateway Strategic Development Plan – City of Mesa, Ariz.
- Globe Tool Lending Library – City of Globe, Ariz.
- Joint-Use Library – City of Casa Grande, Ariz.
- Online Voter Registration – State of Arizona
- Performance Institute – City of Casa Grande, Ariz.
- Town Helps Project – Town of Prescott Valley, Ariz.

ARKANSAS

- Aspiring Scholars Matching Grant Program – State of Arkansas

CALIFORNIA

- Behavioral Health's Community Crisis Services - San Bernardino County, Ca.
- Building Everyone's Skills for Tomorrow - City of Fresno, Ca.
- Building School Success One Relationship At A Time - Sacramento City Unified School District, Ca.

- Capital Improvement Projects Acceleration Program - City of Sunnyvale, Ca.
- Crime and Disorder at Motels - City of Chula Vista, Ca.
- Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation: Carbon Financing - State of California
- Digital Inclusion Program - City of Riverside, Ca.
- Environmental Justice Enforcement Initiative - State of California
- Grandma Cop Child Safety Program - City of Lincoln, Ca.
- Incubator Program - City of San Jose, Ca.
- Make a Difference: Busting the Drought - Walnut Valley School District, Ca.
- Parks Capital Grants Program - City of San Jose, Ca.
- Point of Engagement - Los Angeles County, Ca.
- Ports Technology Advancement Program - City of Los Angeles, Ca.
- Start with a Story Project - Alameda County, Ca.
- Step Up 2 Green - Monterey County, Ca.
- Virtual Parking Management - University of California
- Westside Subway Public Participation Program - Los Angeles County, Ca.
- Youth Development Programs - City of La Mirada, Ca.
- ZotWheels Bikeshare - University of California

COLORADO

- Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership – Town of Estes Park, Colo.
- Flexible Rebate Incentive Program – City of Boulder, Colo.
- Immigrant Resources Center – City of Littleton, Colo.
- Older Adult Injury Prevention Program – City and County of Broomfield, Colorado
- Public Sector Collaborative Training – City of Englewood, Colo.

CONNECTICUT

- Interdistrict Cooperative Grant Program – State of Connecticut
- Poverty Reduction Collaboratives – State of Connecticut
- No Child Left Inside – State of Connecticut

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Fathering Court Initiative – District of Columbia

FLORIDA

- Communities for a Lifetime – State of Florida
- Electronic Arrest Affidavit – Pinellas County, Fla.
- Kitchen Fire Safety – Orange County , Fla.
- The Library Partnership – Alachua County Library District, Fla.
- Library Without Walls – Orange County Library District, Fla.
- Model Plan Review Program – State of Florida
- Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health – State of Florida
- Regional Cluster Study Spurs Growth – Polk County, Fla.
- Transformative Response to High Fuel Costs – Polk County, Fla.
- Zoning Hearings Automation – Miami-Dade County, Florida

GEORGIA

- Permanency Roundtable – State of Georgia

HAWAII

Electronic Bench Warrants – State of Hawaii

Youth Services Center – City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii

ILLINOIS

Affordable Housing Initiative – Cook County, Ill.

Collaborative Delivery of Human Services – City of Rockford, Ill.

Concrete Program – City of Darien, Ill.

IDOT ARRA Quality Management System – State of Illinois

Teen Center – Village of Niles, Ill.

INDIANA

Electronic Traffic Tickets – State of Indiana

Safe Needle Collection And Disposal – Boone County, Ind.

Single Side Trash Pick-up – City of Kokomo, Ind.

IOWA

Career Centers in Prison Initiative – State of Iowa

Railroad Flatcar Bridges – Buchanan County, Ia.

Text to 9-1-1 Project – Black Hawk County, Ia.

KANSAS

Youthful Offender Apprenticeship Training Program – State of Kansas

Legislative Information Management System Web Portal – Johnson County, Kan.

KENTUCKY

Inner-City Residential Enterprise Zone - City of Hopkinsville, Ky.

Neighborhood Place - Louisville Metro Government, Ky.

MAINE

Creative Economy Tax Increment Financing - City of Portland, Me.

MARYLAND

Alternative Diploma Program - State of Maryland

Healthy Howard Health Plan - Howard County, Md.

Vegetable Oil Exchange - Montgomery County, Md.

Virtual Supermarket - City of Baltimore, Md.

MASSACHUSETTS

Beacon Hill Village – City of Boston

Cut It Out Cambridge – City of Cambridge, Mass.

Earnings from Energy Program – Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Life Sciences Initiative – Commonwealth of Massachusetts

StreetSafe Boston – City of Boston

MICHIGAN

Capital Area Michigan Works! Employer Councils – State of Michigan

Deceased Veterans Document Historical Program – Climax Township, Mich.

MINNESOTA

Tribal Development Division – Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minn.

Restorative Justice Community Action – Minneapolis, Minn.

FluLine – State of Minnesota

Project Conserve – City of Elk River, Minn.

MISSISSIPPI

- Focus Program – State of Mississippi
- Tuition Guarantee Program – State of Mississippi

MISSOURI

- Alliance for Homeownership Preservation – St. Louis City, Mo.
- Faith-based Organization Disaster Initiative – State of Missouri
- Offender Kiosks – State of Missouri

MONTANA

- Urban Fringe Development Area Plan – Missoula County, Mont.
- URx Your Pharmacy Plan – State of Montana

NEBRASKA

- Debit Cards and ATMs for Community Custody Inmates – State of Nebraska

NEW JERSEY

- The Cotillion Program – City of Newark, N.J.
- The Learning Bridge – Burlington County, N.J.
- Traders to Teachers – State of New Jersey

NEW MEXICO

- Chauffeur and Designated Driver Program – Santa Fe County, N. Mex.
- Green Jobs Cabinet – State of New Mexico

NEW YORK

- Attorney Emeritus Program – New York State Unified Court System
- Axxess Ontario Fiber Ring Initiative – Ontario County, N.Y.
- Council for Unity – Suffolk County, N.Y.
- Credit for Success – Bank Consortium – County of Ulster, N.Y.
- Credits for Caring Scholarship Program – Suffolk County, N.Y.
- 511 New York – State of New York
- Forest Carbon Credit Program – Rockland County, N.Y.
- Language Assessment and Training Program – City of New York, N.Y.
- Redemption, Inc. – City of New York, N.Y.
- Youth-Police Unity Project – City of Rochester, N.Y.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Capital Area Teen Court – Wake County, N. Car.
- Driver Empathy – Office of the Chief District Court Judge for Orange and Chatham Counties
- Youth Leadership Academy – City of Asheville, N. Car.

OHIO

- Civic Education Program – State of Ohio
- Strategic Investment Initiative – City of Cleveland, Oh.

OKLAHOMA

- Crutch Park Acquisition Project – Oklahoma County, Okla.

OREGON

- Portland SmartTrips – City of Portland, Or.
- Transformation Initiative – State of Oregon

PENNSYLVANIA

- Change Management/Internal Consulting – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Conservation Landscape Initiative – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Development Process Wizard – City of Philadelphia, Pa.
- Dislocated Worker Tuition Waiver Program – Allegheny County, Pa.
- Elm Street Program – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Freedom From Fire – City of Philadelphia, Pa.
- Jail Collaborative – Allegheny County, Pa.
- Office of Financial Education – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Poet Laureate Initiative – Erie County, Pa.
- Public Spaces Collaborative – City of Philadelphia, Pa.

RHODE ISLAND

- Liquor Compliancy Online – State of R.I.
- Real Connections – State of R.I.

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Family Violence Reduction Project – City of West Columbia, S. Car.
- Health Information Exchange – State of South Carolina

TENNESSEE

- On the Fence – City of Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Waste Land to Sports Complex – City of Oneida, Tenn.

TEXAS

- Cardiac Cath Lab Field Activation – North Richland Hills, Tex.
- Children’s Crisis Intervention Training – Bexar County, Tex.
- Claim It Texas – State of Texas
- Downtown Improvement Program – City of Bryan, Tex.
- Fleet Share – City of Houston, Tex.
- Green Energy through Landfill Waste – City of Dallas, Tex.
- Manor Labs – City of Manor, Tex.
- Meet the Lender – City of Austin, Tex.
- Stop, Drop & Go TV Recycling – City of Dallas, Tex.

UTAH

- Clear the Air Challenge – Salt Lake City, Ut.

VIRGINIA

- Leaders in Export Trade Program – Commonwealth of Virginia
- Space of Her Own – City of Alexandria, Va.
- Virginia Interoperability Picture for Emergency Response – Commonwealth of Virginia

VERMONT

- Consortium of North East States and Tribes – State of Vermont
- Legacy Project: Partnering for Our Sustainable Vision – City of Burlington, Vt.

WASHINGTON

- Clear Alley Program – City of Seattle, Wash.
- Green Partnership – City of Seattle, Wash.
- Health Careers for Youth – King County, Wash.
- Helping Every Living Person Curriculum – State of Washington

Sustainable Prisons Project – State of Washington

Trip Resource & Incentive Program – City of Redmond, Wash.

WISCONSIN

Egrants Comprehensive Grants Management System – State of Wisconsin

Military Welcome Home Initiative – State of Wisconsin

On The Road Together: Safe Teen Driving Circles – City of River Falls, Wisc.

WEST VIRGINIA

Electronic Commercial Drivers License Testing – State of West Virginia

WYOMING

Protecting Citizens Personal Health Information – State of Wyoming

FEDERAL

GreenChill Partnership – Environmental Protection Agency

Lifecycle Building Challenge – Environmental Protection Agency

SunWise Program – Environmental Protection Agency

Advantage Custom Search Engine – General Services Administration

3D-4D-BIM Program for the Public Sector Owner – General Services Administration

Invasive Species Threat Campaign – Department of Agriculture

Warrior Adventure Quest – Department of Defense

STAR-Laboratory Interactive Training Environment – Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Motor Vehicles Outreach – Department of Homeland Security

Idea Factory – Department of Homeland Security

Fugitive Safe Surrender – Department of Justice

Interim Cargo Solution – Department of Transportation

NASBLA BOAT Program – United States Coast Guard

See also: Press Releases, Innovations in Government, 2010

Media Inquiries

For media inquiries, please contact Daniel Harsha, associate director of communications.
