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## **NCLM Local Leadership Foundation Announces 2022 Annual Award Winners**

*Thirteen municipalities recognized at NC League's annual conference CityVision*

(WILMINGTON, NC) – The North Carolina League of Municipalities Local Leadership Foundation announced Wednesday the winners of its 2022 Annual Awards program, recognizing 13 municipalities in total.

The award winners were honored during NCLM's annual conference CityVision taking place in Wilmington, NC. The Local Leadership Foundation Awards featured nine categories, for which there were 11 winners and two honorable mentions.

"The projects and successes happening throughout our state reveal the true impact of local leaders and our communities. It is an honor to recognize these award winners, who contribute so much to the state of North Carolina," said NCLM Local Leadership Foundation President and Town of Duck Mayor Don Kingston.

The list of winners and award categories can be found below.

- **Advocate Award: City of Wilmington**
  - Honoring the municipality that has organized an effort to engage and effect change with state legislators.
  - Winning initiative: Leading the Eastern NC Recovery & Resiliency Alliance
- **Citizen Engagement Award: Town of Holly Springs**
  - Honoring the municipality that successfully led a program that engaged their citizenry to elevate their understanding of municipal management and services.
  - Winning initiative: Holly Springs Elementary School Historical Marker project
  - **Honorable Mention: Town of Fuquay-Varina**, for Dashmore, State of the Town 2021

- **Advancing Technology Award: City of Statesville**
  - Honoring the municipality that has utilized modern technology to improve their delivery of services, citizen engagement and economic investments.
  - Winning initiative: Advanced Metering Infrastructure project
- **Collaboration Award: Town of Warrenton**
  - Honoring the municipality that proactively partnered with another county, state or federal agency, or the private sector to achieve a successful outcome felt at the municipal level.
  - Winning initiative: Frontier Warren
- **Municipal Connections Award: City of Mount Holly**
  - Honoring strategic partnerships between smaller or rural communities with their larger, more urban neighbors.
  - Winning initiative: Charlotte Water/Mount Holly Regionalization Project – Pump Station and Force Main project
- **DIRECT Reflection Award: City of Raleigh**
  - Honoring the municipality that adapted its approach or changed its services or practices to address inequity in an area of concern for the community.
  - Winning initiative: Raleigh and Durham Heat Watch Project
  - **Honorable Mention: Town of Carrboro**, for the Carrboro Town Information Center Project
- **Rural & Small-Town Innovation Award: Town of Maysville and City of Conover**
  - Honoring rural small municipalities that implemented an innovative and successful economic development initiative.
  - Winning initiatives: The Town of Maysville Pop-up Shops; Conover's Manufacturing Solutions Center Phase II project
- **Most Entrepreneurial Town Award: City of Durham and Town of Lewisville**
  - Honoring municipalities that, in the face of financial challenges, completed a project or an initiative without the utilization of federal or state dollars.
  - Winning initiative: Innovate Durham initiative; Lewisville's Mary Alice Warren Community Center
- **Community Perseverance Award: Town of Princeville**
  - Honoring the municipality that recently demonstrated a commendable and inspirational spirit of perseverance to overcome significant challenges that may have defeated others.
  - Winning initiative: Floodprint, the Princeville Heritage Trail, and Voices of Princeville

The NCLM Local Leadership Foundation is dedicated to the training and education of North Carolina municipal elected leaders and appointed officials. Through its efforts, leaders who participate in the Foundation's programs will have enhanced leadership skills that will further advance cities and towns across the state.

NCLM's annual conference CityVision began April 26 and will conclude April 28, and includes in-depth sessions, presentations and discussions of community development, economic development, the federal American Rescue Plan, leadership, climate resilience and other key issues facing municipalities.

### *About the League*

The North Carolina League of Municipalities is a member-driven organization representing the interests of cities and towns in the state. Through their collective efforts, League member cities and towns better serve their residents and improve quality of life.

For more than 100 years, the League has been one voice for cities and towns working for a better North Carolina.