**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Insert Issue Date]**

**CONTACT:** **[Insert Local Government Contact] and/or**   
 **[optional]**

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**ICMA Recognizes [Insert Name of Individual] for**

**Outstanding Professional Achievement**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—**[Insert Name of Individual Recipient, Title, and Entity]** will be honored by ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, as the recipient of the organization’s **[Insert Name of Award]**. ICMA’s **[Insert Name of Award]** award recognizes **[Insert appropriate description from Appendix A attached]**.

As the recipient of ICMA’s **[Name of Professional Award]**, **[Name of Individual Recipient]** will be honored in various platforms including ICMA’s 2020 UNITE: A Digital Event, September 23-26, 2020.

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**[Insert brief description of recipient and work history, if desired.]**

**[Insert quote from recipient.]**

The ICMA Local Government Excellence Awards Program highlights creative contributions to professional local government management while demonstrating the difference that kind of management makes to the quality of life in our communities. ICMA’s Professional Awards honor individual achievement by outstanding chief administrative officers, assistant administrators, academics, and others that may have been accomplished through tenure with a number of local governments or organizations. Nominations are evaluated by an independent, 17-person panel of ICMA members.

**[Optional: Insert quote from elected official, colleague, or other individual.]**

“We congratulate the recipients of our 2020 Professional Awards,” says ICMA Executive Marc A. Ott. “The men and women recognized this year set the standard for innovation, effectiveness, and creativity in the cities, towns, counties, and academic institutions they lead. We thank them for their commitment to improving the lives of the constituents they serve every day.”

In addition to online and virtual conference recognition, the 2020 ICMA Local Government Excellence Award recipients will be highlighted in a commemorative booklet that will be posted on icma.org and published in the September 2020 issue of *PM* magazine.

For more information about ICMA’s Annual Awards Program, contact Joyce Lee Brown at [jlee@icma.org](mailto:jlee@icma.org) or 202-962-3625.

**About ICMA**

ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, advances professional local government worldwide. Our mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional management to build livable communities that improve people’s lives. ICMA provides member support; publications; data and information; peer and results-oriented assistance; and training and professional development to nearly 13,000 city, town, and county experts and other individuals and organizations throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA's members affect millions of individuals living in thousands of communities, from small villages and towns to large metropolitan areas. Learn more at [icma.org](http://www.icma.org).

**Appendix A: ICMA Professional Awards**

* **Award for Career Excellence in Memory of Mark E. Keane r**ecognizes an outstanding chief local government administrator who has fostered representative democracy by enhancing the effectiveness of local elected officials and by consistently initiating creative and successful programs.
* **Award for Career Development in Memory of L. P. Cookingham r**ecognizes an outstanding local government administrator who has made a significant contribution to the career development of new talent in professional local government management.
* **Assistant Excellence in Leadership Award in Memory of Buford M. Watson Jr. r**ecognizes a local government management professional who has made significant contributions toward excellence in leadership while serving as an assistant (regardless of title) to a chief local government administrator or department head.
* **Academic Award in Memory of Stephen B. Sweeney** recognizes a classroom instructor who has made a significant contribution to the formal education of students pursuing careers in local government.
* **Early Career Leadership Award in Memory of William H. Hansell Jr. r**ecognizes an outstanding early-career local government professional who has demonstrated leadership, competency and commitment to local government as a profession.