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Smarter Sustainable Dubuque Named to Top 25 Innovations in Government

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University has named Smarter Sustainable Dubuque as one of the Top 25 programs in this year's Innovations in American Government Award competition.

Smarter Sustainable Dubuque is the research function of the Sustainable Dubuque initiative, which seeks to make Dubuque a community that meets the environmental, economic, and social equity needs of its residents today without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Smarter Sustainable Dubuque is a unique partnership of the City of Dubuque, IBM Research, and a variety of public and private sector partners designed to give people what they need (reliable information specific to them) so they can do what they want (save money and resources, improve the environment and the local economy, improve health). The project was initiated in September 2009 when the City of Dubuque and IBM announced their intentions to make Dubuque one of the first “smarter” sustainable cities in the U.S. through the development of new “smarter” technologies coupled with community outreach and implementation strategies. Since 2009, pilot studies have already been conducted in smarter water, electricity, and transportation and volunteer recruitment is currently under way for studies on Smarter Health and Wellness and Smarter Discards. Additional information is available at www.cityofdubuque.org/ssd.

“This is a tremendous honor for a truly innovative initiative that has been successful because of support from public and private partners and the real heroes -- the volunteers who participated in the pilot studies,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “I hope this recognition will encourage others to volunteer for the Smarter Health and Wellness and Smarter Discards pilot studies,” Buol said. “By connecting systems and data analysis and integration, Smarter Sustainable Dubuque is not only giving residents valuable information, it is enabling the City to better respond to the needs of our residents.”

The Ash Center said the Top 25 government initiatives represent the dedicated efforts of city, state, federal, and tribal governments and address a host of policy issues including crime prevention, economic development, environmental and community revitalization, employment, education, and health care. Selected by a cohort of policy experts, researchers, and practitioners, four finalists and one winner of the Innovations in American Government Award will be announced in the fall. A full list of the Top 25 programs is available at <http://www.ash.harvard.edu/Home/News-Events/Press-Releases/Innovations/Top-25-Innovations-in-Government-Announced2/Top-25-Programs>.

“These Top 25 innovations in government offer real, tangible ways to protect our most disadvantaged citizens, educate the next-generation workforce, and utilize data analytics to enhance government performance,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in Government program at the Ash Center. “Despite diminishing resources, these government programs have developed model innovations that other struggling agencies should be inspired to replicate and adapt to their own communities.”

The Innovations in American Government Awards was created by the Ford Foundation in 1985 to shine a light on effective government programs. Since its inception, over 400 government innovations across all jurisdiction levels have been recognized and have collectively received more than \$22 million in grants to support dissemination efforts. Such models of good governance also inform research and academic study. The Center also recently announced 13 programs as Bright Ideas, an initiative of the broader Innovations in American Government Awards program.

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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.