



PRESS RELEASE

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Governmental Research Association Announces Award Winners

Rochester, NY, July 29, 2016 – At its July 26, 2016 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 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 retired leader of the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, James Williams.

Most Distinguished Research

Award- [Bureau of Governmental Research](#), New Orleans, LA: *The \$1 Billion Question: Do the Tax Dedications in New Orleans Make Sense?*

Award- [Public Policy Forum](#), Milwaukee, WI: *Help Wanted: An Analysis of the Teacher Pipeline in Metro Milwaukee*

Award- [Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance](#), Madison, WI: *Evaluating Wisconsin's Approach to Determining Prevailing Wages*

Certificate of Merit- [Colorado Futures Center at Colorado State University](#), Denver, CO: *Measuring the Impact of Tax and Expenditure Limits on Public School Finance in Colorado*

Outstanding Policy Achievement

Award- [Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama](#), Birmingham, AL: *Alabama Education Studies*

Award- [Bureau of Governmental Research](#), New Orleans, LA: *Safeguarding School Funding in New Orleans*

Most Effective Education

Award- [Citizens Research Council of Michigan](#), Detroit, MI: *Statewide Ballot Issue: Proposal 15-1, Sales and Motor Fuel Tax Increases Related to Transportation Funding*

Award- [EducationNC](#), Raleigh, NC: *EdNC's Architecture of Participation*

Gruenberg Award

The GRA Trustees conferred the Frederick Gruenberg Award to James Williams of the [Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama](#).

Executive Director of the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) from its founding in 1988 until his retirement in 2015, James Williams led PARCA's study of state and local government and public education, winning nine national awards for research excellence.

During Jim's tenure with PARCA, he played an important role in the Alabama Commission on Tax and Fiscal Policy Reform (90-91), the Tax Reform Task Force (91-92), the Education Reform Task Force (95), the Mobile County Commission to recommend improved funding for the Mobile County School (01), the Governor's Task Force on Teacher Quality (01-03), the Alabama Commerce Commission (00-02), the Governor's Task Force to Strengthen Alabama Families (05-15).

A member of GRA since 1970, he served as Vice President from 1987 to 1989, President from 1989 to 1991, and Secretary from 1991 to 2012.

Before coming to Alabama in 1988, Jim worked in governmental research in Texas and Michigan. He holds a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's degree from the University of Michigan, both in political science.

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.
