Florida Civic Advance Announces its 2019 Civic Excellence Award for Intergenerational Civic Engagement

Tallahassee, Fla. -- The Florida Civic Advance (FCA), a collaborative initiative involving an emerging network of local, regional and statewide organizations and associations committed to strengthening civic life and supported by Florida State University, is proud to recognize an innovative Florida community initiative that that has successfully engaged generations in civic engagement, Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay, Inc. an advocate for independent aging and intergenerational engagement. Their project, “Seniors in Service - Geared Up to Serve” is being recognized with a Civic Excellence Award in the category of “Intergenerational Civic Engagement.

The intergenerational volunteer program matches over 500 aged 55+ each year helping at-risk children and teens with intensive in-class tutoring/mentoring impacting 3,000+ children a year. It also provides help for elders, disabled adults, caregivers, veterans and hungry families. In the past 35 years they’ve provided over 5 million service hours exceeding $76,000,000.

“There are so many local initiatives taking place throughout the state that are successfully improving civic life and actively increasing citizen involvement but aren’t being acknowledged or talked about,” said FCA Coordinating Council Chair and AARP Florida State Director Jeff Johnson. “We want to provide a platform to those projects, share their successes and, ultimately, work to replicate them in local communities throughout the state.” The award categories also included Voter Education and Civic Service, and Citizen Engagement with Local Government.

In its inaugural year, this award program recognizes outstanding civic programs, projects or initiatives that successfully promote innovation, excellence and civic awareness in Florida’s local communities. The program has three award categories: Citizen Engagement with Local Government, Intergenerational Civic Engagement, and Voter Education and Civic Service.

In addition to the winning project, the FCA also announced a list of projects receiving honorable mention in the category of Intergenerational Civic Engagement including:

- New Life Village, An intentional Intergenerational Living Community for Seniors and Foster-Adoptive-Kinship Families “It takes a Village to raise a child”. Mariah Hayden
- Intergenerational Civics Education and Voter Registration Programs, League of Women Voters, Palm Beach Co. Rebecca Cohen
- Golden Beach Youth Leadership Group, Town of Golden Beach, Marie Talley

The winning project and those receiving honorable mention will be showcased at the FCA Summit, December 12-13, 2019 at St. Petersburg College, Seminole, For more information and registration, visit https://consensus.fsu.edu/Civic-Advance/index.html

###