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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NASCA HONORS SANDRA GILL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED DEPUTY AWARD

LEXINGTON, Ky —The National Association of State Chief Administrators (NASCA), an association devoted to state chief administrators (CAOs) and their senior leadership has honored Sandra Gill, Deputy Director of General Services for the State of Virginia, with the association's prestigious Distinguished Deputy Award.

The highly competitive national award recognizes an individual for their career of accomplishments in state government. Over her 20 years at the Virginia' Department of General Services (DGS), Sandra has played an integral role in transforming public procurement in Virginia, from a paper-driven system which limited competition for government purchases, to one that is continually recognized for its innovation, cost savings and transparency – providing a model for numerous states that followed Virginia's lead.

Gill received the honor Wednesday during an awards breakfast at NASCA's 2019 Institute on Management and Leadership in Oklahoma City.

"Sandra has had an incredible impact on the way the Commonwealth does business, and in her expanded role as Deputy Director she will continue to improve outcomes for Virginia's public bodies, businesses and our citizens," said Joe Damico, Director of DGS. "Her determination, intellect, resourcefulness, and her innate thoughtfulness of others make her an exceptional Deputy Director, and we are lucky to work with her at DGS."

Within weeks of joining DGS in 1999, Sandra used her knowledge from the private printing sector to update specifications that resulted in \$303,000 in savings to the Commonwealth. In 2002 at the time contract bids were calculated via calculators with paper output, Sandra automated the process, saving hundreds of staff hours by shortening the process from three months to two days, and created greater transparency eliminating a number of potential award protests.

Additionally, Sandra was chosen as a team leader as DGS developed the first of its kind commonwealth-wide electronic procurement system, eVA. Sandra drafted legislation and wrote policy changes that were required to address the change from a paper-driven procurement process to an electronic process.

Finally, Sandra served as the key contact for legislation and policy for of DGS' divisions. She drafted legislation aimed at ensuring equal opportunities and access for all Virginians in state contracting. Sandra conceptualized and led the team that built the procure-to-pay transparency for DGS. Sandra has received DGS Employee of the Year Award in 2003 and Sandra the Rookie of the Year Award from the Department in 2000.

"I've seen how our agency's focus on innovation has helped transform state government in areas of procurement and beyond," Gill said in accepting the award. "General Services' contributions to state administration is significant, and I'm fortunate to work with so many who are committed to serving Virginians."



“Virginia has led with a legacy of excellence in procurement, providing a replicable model for others to follow in their footsteps. We are privileged to honor Sandra Gill who has not only been recognized by the state of Virginia, but by departments of administration nationwide.” said Sarah Razor, executive director of the National Association of State Chief Administrators.

The **National Distinguished Deputy Award** was established to recognize a deputy to the state chief administrators for their passion, outstanding service, leadership and commitment to state government. NASCA presented this prestigious award during the 2019 Institute on Management and Leadership Award Luncheon in Oklahoma City, OK on September 25.

About NASCA

The National Association of State Chief Administrators (NASCA) is the leading organization advancing professional development and best management solutions for the administrative functions of state government. The association provides state chief administrators with the opportunity to increase their knowledge of state government administration through education, networking and information exchange on state government trends, leading edge innovations, standards and best practices.

NASCA’s mission is to help state chief administrators and their teams strategically transform state government operations through the power of shared knowledge and thought leadership.

For more information about NASCA visit www.nasca.org.

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