

# 2018 Awards Competition – ENTRY SUMMARIES

August 5, 2018, beginning at 1:00 p.m.  
Sabal Palm Room, Hilton Head Marriott Hotel

## J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD

### ***Barnwell County***

Barnwell County implemented the “Emergency Millennial” program to enhance the safety of county residents during disasters and emergencies. Due to its limited staff size, the Barnwell County Emergency Operations Center found it difficult to handle all facets of an emergency without assistance from volunteers. The county teamed with local high schools to recruit students as volunteers in the emergency operations center. The program not only helps the county, but also offers students a chance to fulfill community service requirements for various clubs and interests.

### ***Berkeley County***

Across Berkeley County, real solutions for infrastructure, public safety, and quality of life needs are taking shape every day. The county developed the user-friendly “Building Berkeley” website to show residents how growth is being managed, challenges are being met, and prosperity is abounding. An interactive map allows residents to check on the status of projects in their neighborhoods, while a feedback interface facilitates easy, two-way communication with county staff.

### ***Charleston County***

The Charleston County EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project links mental health professionals to patients in the field by using telehealth technology. The project allows mental health patients to get the appropriate level of mental health care and avoid costly and lengthy “housing” in emergency rooms. Mental health evaluations are performed in the field, using a digital connection between the patient and a mental health professional, thereby diverting patients away from emergency rooms. This program has shown promise as a benchmark for mental health care and treatment.

### ***Georgetown County***

The Georgetown County Sheriff’s Department’s Reentry Program trains inmates near the end of their sentences for journeyman certification in 12 trades. The program also offers job search workshops and life skills classes. To date, 278 inmates have completed the training and all have been placed in jobs in their certification areas. Most notably, none of these graduates have been re-incarcerated and participants’ apprenticeship with the county public works department saves the county \$300,000 per year in labor costs.

### ***Horry County***

In 2018, Horry County purchased approximately 3,700 acres of biologically and historically significant land for the purpose of creating a wetland mitigation bank—the first created and operated solely by a county in the state. The bank will provide a number of wetland credits, allowing the county to move forward with critical infrastructure and road improvement projects. In addition, the land will be protected by a permanent conservation easement restricting future development and improving the unique Coastal Carolina Bay habitat.

### ***Lancaster County***

Every year, the nation celebrates National Read Across America day on Dr. Seuss’ birthday. In an effort to promote reading and showcase the beauty and history of Lancaster County, the county and the school district partnered to create a children’s book and produced a video of local leaders reading the book in various areas of the county. Students watched the video on National Read Across America day, and all of the 4th and 5th grade classes in the county will have copies of the book by the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The project’s video and book is a source of pride for Lancaster County residents.

### ***Marlboro County***

Marlboro County was faced with a number of serious issues related to fire service, including a decline in recruitment and retention of volunteers, stations and equipment in desperate need of replacement, and large areas of the county with the worst possible insurance rating. County Council and county fire district leaders worked together to improve upon the safety of its citizens and reduce fire insurance premiums.

### ***Richland County***

Richland County partnered with its health insurance vendor to conduct an onsite Diabetes Prevention Program. The county utilized an onsite certified dietician and diabetes coach to conduct the pilot program. Lifestyle change interventions are cost-effective and, in some cases, result in reduced health care spending for the employee and the county. Over the 11-month pilot project period, the county conducted 26 sessions and county employees lost a total combined weight of 170 pounds.

## **BARRETT LAWRIKORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD**

### ***Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties***

After many attempts to attract and keep quality healthcare in the Bamberg-Barnwell region, the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties recognized that the area had become a “healthcare desert” and stepped in to fill the need. Thanks to the tireless support of Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg, and Barnwell county councils, state legislators, and many partners, the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center is bringing critically-needed, accessible, quality healthcare back to the region.

### ***Florence County***

Florence County and Lake City transformed a blighted area into a 25 acre recreational park with a 7.5 acre lake. The blighted area was the site of a former wastewater treatment facility and an old landfill. Both were abandoned years prior, and a portion of the property was being used by the city and county for a public works and a waste collection facility. Remediation of the site resulted in a community gathering place that enhances the community’s eco-system and the quality of life for citizens.

### ***Greenwood and Laurens Counties***

The Lake Greenwood Master Plan was a cooperative effort involving Greenwood and Laurens counties that led to a long-range, unified vision for the growth of the region’s hidden gem—Lake Greenwood. After a year-long study and the collaboration of citizens, planners, and government officials, a master plan was created that establishes goals, objectives, and strategies for the use, development, and protection of the lake area through 2035. The master plan serves as a guidebook for the future plans of both counties.

### ***Lancaster County***

Lancaster County had continuous road flooding around the Gills Creek basin. During flooding events, some roadways were impassable for residents and emergency vehicles, with no alternative routes. Permanent solutions were complicated by the designation of Gills Creek as a critical habitat for the Carolina Heelsplitter—an endangered species since 1993. The county worked cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to install bottomless culverts, which eliminated the flooding while also opening up over three miles of critical habitat for the Heelsplitter.

### ***Laurens County***

On behalf of Laurens County, the Laurens County Development Corporation partnered with local industries, Piedmont Technical College, and two local school districts to form the Business and Education Partnership to create a more robust talent pipeline for local employers. A new dual-enrollment program for area high schools and the technical college has been created as a result of this partnership. The Laurens County Development Corporation also launched a year-long campaign to increase awareness of local employment opportunities.

### ***Pickens County***

In preparation for the county’s 150th anniversary, Pickens County employees led a county wide anti-litter initiative to “Team Up and Clean Up”. County offices closed for a day so employees, community leaders, and citizens could collect trash from the roadways. County council members, the legislative delegation, the S.C. Department of Transportation, local municipalities, various community groups, and businesses participated. As a result, more than 17 tons of trash was collected and the “Five on Friday” initiative emerged. This litter initiative encourages each county resident to pick up five pieces of trash on Fridays, thereby eliminating nearly half a ton of trash each week.