

2019 Awards Competition – ENTRY SUMMARIES

August 4, 2019, beginning at 1:00 p.m.
Sabal Palm Room, Hilton Head Marriott Hotel

J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD

Barnwell County

The need for a new high school gymnasium led Barnwell County School District 45 down a unique path when Superintendent Jay Grissom learned of a dual-purpose gymnasium safe room in the Midwest. A monolithic dome facility capable of withstanding hurricane conditions funded by a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant was the perfect solution to meet the needs of the school district and residents. In addition to providing protection for county residents during a weather-related emergency, the facility will benefit surrounding counties on the southern conglomerate evacuation zone. After five years of research, planning, and persistence by key partners, the vision for Barnwell High School Gymnasium & Community Safe Room has come to fruition.

Charleston County

In response to a large percentage of its workforce approaching retirement age, Charleston County is being proactive in alleviating potential gaps in leadership positions. The Emerging Leader Program (ELP) was created to mitigate challenges associated with a dynamic and ever-changing workforce. ELP takes employees out of their traditional “silos” by building new relationships, sharing experiences, working together, and learning how to overcome challenges. The ELP seeks to delve deeper into the organization to develop and strengthen Charleston County’s next generation of leaders with broader management techniques, leadership experiences, and insight on how the operations of the county are executed.

Dorchester County

In the era of social media, smartphones, and the 24-hour news cycle, anyone with a social following can spread information. Dorchester County needed to reduce the spread of misinformation and improve the quality of information communicated to the public. To meet its goals, the county developed an Online Newsroom—a central information hub that connects to citizens through traditional media outlets and social media. Through the Online Newsroom, the county tells its own story, provides important notifications in real-time, and significantly reduces the spread of misinformation.

Horry County

HCCConnect was created to provide a technology platform to inform, engage, and connect with the citizens of Horry County. This is a first of its kind application, developed completely in-house, creating a direct channel for citizen driven communication and feedback. Users create a profile based on location and subscribe to feeds that are important to them. Neighborhood-specific feeds include crime tracking, zoning hearings, building permits, and activities at parks and recreation facilities. The app also provides frequently requested information in real-time to mobile devices, and it gives users the ability to submit service requests instantly.

York County

On the night of January 15-16, 2019, the York County Sheriff’s Office suffered one of the greatest tragedies in its 232-year history. Three officers were shot, and one was killed in a series of ambushes. A year later, the York County Sheriff’s Office detailed the events of that night in a three-hour documentary called “The Many Heroes.” This documentary consists of 17 public safety officials describing events of that night and openly sharing their involvement. By choosing this unique and transparent method, the York County Sheriff’s Office honors their fallen brother, honors all public safety entities that were involved, and brings healing and unification to York County.

BARRETT LAWRIKORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD

Charleston County

Charleston County collaborated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to create partnerships to engage the community. The inaugural events were a Small Business Forum and STEM Exposition. The partnership has opened doors for the county to work with schools, colleges, defense contractors, small business owners, and federal, state, and local agencies. These connections have grown into additional projects and ongoing relationships that continue to foster economic development and provide opportunities for citizens.

Marlboro County

Economic conditions make travel to doctors' offices, shopping, schools, and government facilities a challenge for many residents of Marlboro County. Additionally, area businesses and industries face difficulty in hiring and retaining employees due to a lack of workforce transportation. Recognizing these issues, Marlboro County partnered with the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority, CareFIRST Carolina Foundation/Care South Carolina, and several regional sponsors to develop a public transportation initiative. By using fee-in-lieu of tax agreement funds, the county was able to use an innovative strategy to leverage additional funding sources to provide this needed service to its citizens.

McCormick County

McCormick County was the ideal location for the inception of Savannah Lakes Village, a large-scale, master-planned community on the shores of Lake Thurmond. The national housing economy crash of 2008 led to a near-fatal delinquency trend that resulted in 50 percent of the properties falling into the county's Forfeited Land Commission. The county and Savannah Lakes Village refused to accept this outcome, and worked together to craft a plan, identify a capable development partner, and chart a course for redevelopment.

Pickens County

Pickens County joined forces with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Services, the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County, Bowers Emergency Services, local police departments, Pickens EMS, and other emergency response organizations to address the community's opioid epidemic. The partnership is the first in the state to take a personal, hands-on approach to tackling the national opioid crisis through the Community Outreach Paramedic Education (COPE) program. This program equips specially trained paramedics and support specialists to make home visits and provide long-term support to opioid addicts in recovery.