



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTE: Upon request, photos will be provided by e-mail.

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SCDDSN AWARDS 2018 GOLDEN PALMETTO TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY

The S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) awarded the 2018 Golden Palmetto to Fairfield County on August 5 at SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference, held August 3 – 7. The award recognizes South Carolina counties that provide exemplary support to people with disabilities during the previous calendar year.

“Fairfield County is being recognized this year in particular for employing people with disabilities,” said Gary Lemel, SCDDSN Commission Chair, when presenting the award to Fairfield County Council Chairman Neil Robinson, who accepted the award for Fairfield County. “Fairfield County operates a recycling center and maintains lawns and cleaning services at county buildings, and county officials make time to attend local events put on by the Fairfield County Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Board.

“In addition, Fairfield County provided generous financial support to the county’s DSN Board,” Lemel added. “The county provided a great deal of ‘in kind’ support in 2018, such as topsoil to landscape the home of persons with disabilities and truckloads of mulch, free grading and gravel for a driveway to one of the residences. The county also contributed to the further expansion of facilities to serve residents with disabilities by donating land for expansion of the county DSN Board’s facility.”

Laura Collins, Fairfield County DSN Board Executive Director, said she was pleased to see Fairfield County awarded the Golden Palmetto.

“Fairfield County Government,” Collins said, “has consistently given immeasurable support to our agency and promoted the employment of people with disabilities and special needs in Fairfield County for 36 years.”

SCDDSN has awarded the Golden Palmetto each year for the past 44 years, and Fairfield County is the first county to win the award six times. The county previously won the award in 1996, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013.

“The fact that this is the sixth time that Fairfield County has won this award shows the deep commitment to serving people with disabilities that exists in Fairfield County, and we think it’s important that at the state level we recognize that commitment,” said Lemel, SCDDSN Commission Chair.

SCDDSN State Director Mary Poole thanked “Fairfield County for recognizing that people with disabilities can do great work and for giving our customers a chance to show the community what they can do,” and she congratulated the county for its effort.

SCDDSN is the state agency that plans, develops, coordinates and funds services for South Carolinians with severe, lifelong disabilities of intellectual disability and related disabilities; autism spectrum disorder; traumatic brain injury; and spinal cord injury and similar disability.

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