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Coconino County Exceeds Finance Standards, Receives Awards

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The Coconino County Finance Department has received a pair of awards that recognize the County's continued financial accounting practices, adhering to the high accountability standards the taxpayers expect and deserve.

The County received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The program was established in 1945 to encourage state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements with accounting principles, and to foster increased transparency and full disclosure of public tax dollars.

"This is really a testament to not only the Finance Department, but finance staff in all County departments," said Finance Director Sandi Schultz. "Without our dedicated County employees, our Finance staff wouldn't be able to receive this award."

The County has received the recognition for the past three years. To receive recognition, Counties are judged by other government officials, members of the finance profession and academics who specialize in government reporting. The certificate of achievement represents work done in the 2011 Fiscal Year.

County Finance staff also received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is also given by GFOA. The award was established in 1984 to encourage state and local governments to prepare budget documents to the highest quality. Those seeking the award are judged on 27 specific criteria and rated as being not proficient, proficient or outstanding. The County received the most outstanding ratings than ever and has received the award for the past 11 years.

"These awards speak highly of Coconino County's finance and budget staff," said Interim County Manager Mike Townsend. "This isn't easy to accomplish and it requires a lot of work, but it lends credibility to Coconino County. It brings a lot of respect, not just from within the organization and other governments around the state, but to the taxpayers who can have confidence in what we are reporting and doing with their tax dollars."

The awards represent the dedication and hard work of County staff who strive to exceed high accountability standards for local residents and taxpayers.

"These awards are reflective of all the dedication and hard work of our County staff," said County Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairwoman Liz Archuleta. "This recognition is also reflective of the great leadership of our individual departments and Finance director."

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