

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release
Nov. 16, 2007

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Pat Evans
Mayor

Sally Magnuson
Mayor Pro Tem

Jean Callison
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Shep Stahel
Place 1

Scott Johnson
Place 2

Loretta Ellerbe
Place 3

Harry LaRosiliere
Place 5

Lee Dunlap
Place 8

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck
City Manager

Plano Receives National League of Cities' Award for Municipal Excellence for Innovative City Programs

The City of Plano was among eight cities to receive the National League of Cities' (NLC) 2007 Awards for Municipal Excellence. Plano was chosen for its *Management Preparation Program of Plano (MP3)*, which was created to prepare for the tidal wave of retiring baby boomers and to help transition the next generation of leaders. The cities recognized were honored this week at NLC's Congress of Cities in New Orleans, La.

Plano's *Management Preparation Program of Plano (MP3)* was named a Gold winner (by population category), along with Lenexa, Kansas' *Rain to Recreation, A Watershed Management Program*; New Haven, Connecticut's *Elm City Immigration Project*; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin's *Lapham Park Venture*.

The Silver winners included (by population category): Selma, Alabama's *TRUSTBuild*; Tinley Park, Illinois' *Economic Development Plan for Success*; Pembroke Pines, Florida's *State Hospital Campus: Human Service Collaborations & Redevelopment*; and Austin, Texas' *Spring Terrace*.

"These eight winning cities show that the most creative and innovative solutions to our nation's pressing challenges often develop at the local level," said NLC President Bart Peterson, mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana. "NLC recognizes and celebrates these programs so that other local leaders can use these ideas to create similar efforts in their own hometowns."

The prestigious Awards for Municipal Excellence, given by NLC and CH2M HILL, one of the country's largest engineering firms, recognize cities with outstanding programs that enrich the quality of life for their residents.

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“As we strive to be a global leader in full-service engineering, construction and operations, CH2M HILL delivers innovative, practical, sustainable solutions to our clients. We celebrate the good work of our municipal leaders as they follow a similar path, resulting in a brighter future for their citizens,” said Ralph Peterson, Chairman and CEO of CH2M HILL.

These awards have been given jointly by NLC and CH2M HILL since 1989 and are divided into four winning categories: cities with populations under 50,000; 50,001 – 150,000; 150,001 – 500,000; and over 500,000. Each category has two winners: Gold and Silver. Gold winners will receive cash awards of \$2,000 and silver winners receive \$1,000. The cash awards will be donated to community non-profit organizations of the city’s choice. Information regarding the Awards program can be found at www.nlc.org. For information on other innovative municipal programs, visit NLC’s [City Practices Online Database](#).

The award winners were selected by a panel of judges, including Karen Anderson, former president, National League of Cities; Janet Areson, Virginia Municipal League; Cy Behroozi, Brookings Institution; Jacqueline Byers, National Association of Counties; Del D. Borgsdorf, Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce; Saul Ramirez Jr., National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; Carol Rhea, American Planning Association; and Toni Samuel, American Society of Public Administration.

The National League of Cities is the nation’s oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

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