We are proud to present these 2018 Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards

**The OLGAs:**

Each year, East-West Gateway Council of Governments presents its Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards recognizing the extraordinary work of municipal, county, special purpose and school district officials in the St. Louis region.

It does not matter whether a jurisdiction, department or district is large or small, volunteer or professional, part-time or full-time.

We look for individuals who provide the highest level of leadership; for projects and partnerships that raise the bar; and for jurisdictions that provide a level of excellence, expertise and service in local government for all to emulate.

We challenged you to bring those who embody these qualities forward for consideration and we honor them today.

**Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award**

Honors exemplary individuals who have given a lifetime of service to the public sector.

**Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual**

Honors local government jurisdictions, special purpose and school districts, public agencies and individuals for unique achievements in the creation and implementation of exemplary government programs or projects and exceptional public sector contributions.

**Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative**

Honors cooperative efforts or joint ventures among local government jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and/or the private sector that result in high impact, positive change.

**Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation**

Honors forward-thinking planning and design efforts for public spaces or community development that challenges the way people think about their surroundings.
We recognize the great work that local governments and local government officials are doing across the region. 

*Please join us as we applaud all of our 2018 OLGA nominees.*

City of St. Charles

City of St. Louis Board of Alderman

City of St. Louis Downtown Multimodal Plan

Gravois Trunk Sanitary Storage Facility and Crestwood Public Works Facility
Metropolitan Sewer District, City of Crestwood

PGA Public Safety Initiative

Renee Rueter
Jefferson County

Route 66 Viewing Platform
City of Shrewsbury

Shelia Sweeney
St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

St. Louis Partnership for a Healthy Community

Stormwater Management Working Group
Scott Air Force Base Community Partnership Initiative

Transit Advisory Working Group

Wentzville City Hall
Terry W. Beach has dedicated more than four decades to working for the betterment of St. Clair County. Much of his long career has been spent in leadership positions at the county government level. In these roles, he has been an integral force in the county’s economic development and an expert in leveraging federal grant dollars for maximum local impact.

Terry’s first introduction to public service came through stints as the housing programs supervisor and then division manager for the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department from 1975 to 1982. He then worked as an assistant to St. Clair County Board Chairman Jerry F. Costello until 1988, when Costello was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. During this time, Terry briefly helmed the St. Clair County Transit District as its first interim transit director. Following the election, Terry continued to work for Costello as the newly elected Congressman’s district director.

In the spring of 1990, Terry switched from politics back to public administration, returning to the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department as deputy director, a position he would go on to hold for the next 15 years. In this capacity, Terry administered a variety of federal and state grants with a special focus on economic development. He was an instrumental part of the push to expand MetroLink from East St. Louis to Belleville, serving as the manager for the successful 1993 sales tax campaign that later helped fund the expansion.

Terry’s career in public service has been defined by his tireless devotion to seeing St. Clair County grow and prosper. Since 2005, he has led the county’s economic development department as director, working closely to help existing companies expand and to attract new businesses to the region. Most recently, Terry oversaw the successful application of a federal grant that provided vital funding for the $8 million River Bridge District on the East St. Louis Riverfront. This transformative project opened up hundreds of acres for additional industrial and agribusiness development.

His willingness to go above and beyond is evidenced by the fact that since 2015, Terry has also served as the executive director of the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department. The department administered $15 million in federal grants in 2018 and provides a variety of critical services to residents and employers, such as job training/workforce development, homelessness assistance programs, and the county’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Terry has always had a willingness to take on special projects, particularly when they involve cross-jurisdictional collaboration. When the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership began putting together the region’s bid for Amazon’s second headquarters, it was Terry along with St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern who reached out with the idea of a proposal involving both sides of the river. While the bid for the headquarters fell short, the experience created unifying, regional momentum around economic development issues.

The decades of leadership, hard work, and problem-solving provided by Terry exemplify the highest standards of public service. St. Clair County and the St. Louis region as a whole have benefitted tremendously from Terry’s contributions.
Mary E. Case, M.D.

Mary E. Case, M.D., is leading figure in the worlds of neuropathology and forensic science with a career as a professor, researcher, advocate, and medical examiner spanning 40-plus years. She has served as a professor of pathology at Saint Louis University since 1973 and the Chief Medical Examiner for St. Charles and St. Louis counties since 1986. In late 2017, the counties of St. Charles, Jefferson, and Franklin joined together to create a regional medical examiner office and named Mary to lead the joint agency.

Her accolades, involvement in professional organizations, and certifications form a long list of remarkable contributions that have made Mary renowned in the fields of neuropathology and forensic pathology. She currently serves as the Chair of the Missouri Network of Certified Pathologists for Child Death Autopsies, on the Board of Directors for the Greater St. Louis Region Critical Incident Stress Management Team, and on the National Center for Shaken Baby International Advisory Board. Her academic service includes positions on the editorial review boards of the American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, the Journal of Forensic Sciences, and the Journal of Trauma.

In addition, Mary served on a national review panel on the development of guidelines for death investigation for the National Institute of Justice in 1996, and in 2016 she ended more than a decade of service on the ethics committee for the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, where she is a Fellow. She is also a Fellow of the College of American Pathologists and a member of numerous medical and pathology associations at the local, state, and national level as well as the Ray Helfer Society, which provides medical leadership in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research of child abuse and neglect.

As would be expected from the list of achievements above, Mary has authored and coauthored a lengthy list of medical journal articles, reports, and book chapters. This robust collection of scholarly work has helped advance the fields of neuropathology and forensic science. Mary also makes time to share her insights and expertise with others, lecturing extensively for professional organizations throughout the United States and across the world.

Throughout her career, Mary has been driven by a passion for serving her community. She has dedicated herself to the premise that the accurate determination of cause and manner of death is absolutely essential to the proper administration of justice as well as recognizing epidemic threats to public health. Her expertise is unique, not just in the St. Louis region but nationally as well; Mary is one of the few forensic neuropathologists in the U.S.

Her leadership in the field of forensic pathology is unparalleled. As a teacher, researcher, investigator, and advocate, Mary has earned the respect of law enforcement, children, and victims for her tremendous work ethic, knowledge, and service. She truly represents the kind of positive impact a lifetime of exceptional public service is capable of achieving.
Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

David Newburger

As the commissioner for the city of St. Louis Office of the Disabled and a lifelong advocate, David Newburger recognized a unique opportunity to make the Gateway Arch more accessible to all visitors as part of the extensive CityArchRiver renovations. Thanks to his tireless leadership, passion, and collaborative spirit, a multitude of Universal Design features were incorporated into the updated Gateway Arch Museum and surrounding park grounds. David accomplished this by inviting leaders from the St. Louis disability community to collaborate with the National Parks Service and Gateway Arch Foundation as advisors to the various design teams working on the CityArchRiver project. This group, led and organized by David, provided effective feedback on all aspects of the renovations, everything from walkways and entrances to elevators and font sizes.

By meeting consistently with all designers over a six-year-period, they ensured the expansion embraced numerous Universal Design elements. Examples of these elements include properly sloped and graded walkways throughout the park for ease of access to people who use wheelchairs, braille and raised tactile information throughout the museum, pull under spaces at most exhibits, and sign language interpretation of exhibit videos for deaf guests that will be coming soon. David’s initiative and drive to implement these features have made the Gateway Arch National Park unique among the National Parks system and provide a model for ensuring our nation’s most famous landmarks and museums are enjoyable by all.

Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative

39 North AgTech Innovation District

The 39 North AgTech Innovation District is a testament to what corporate, government, and institutional leaders can accomplish when they come together around a key goal. After securing a $500,000 federal grant, the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership embarked on an extensive planning process that engaged community and industry stakeholders, including BioSTL, the cities of Creve Coeur and Olivette, the Danforth Plant Science Center, Great Rivers Greenway, the Jewish Community Center, Bayer/Monsanto, Trailnet, and the World Trade Center. These partners recognized the tremendous strengths St. Louis has in the AgTech sector—home to the highest concentration of plant science PhD’s in the world, top-tier research and academic institutions, leading multinational corporations—and worked to create a bold vision for its future.

Their efforts produced a master plan and unique branding that establishes a framework for defining the area as a district, attracting and developing talent, and providing a physical framework for growth. The strategies for each these development goals range from placemaking tactics that visually define the district to expanding core resources that support top researchers and companies. With this transformational blueprint, the 39 North AgTech Innovation District is poised to strengthen its position as a global hub for plant science and continue to bring jobs and investments that benefit the entire St. Louis region.
City of East St. Louis — CENCOM West Dispatch Facility

The CENCOM West Dispatch Facility is the result of a collaborative effort between the city of East St. Louis and St. Clair County that improved emergency service for portions of the Metro East region while also realizing significant cost savings. The opportunity for this project came about following the state of Illinois’ mandated 911 consolidation rules, which required that the county reduce the number of dispatch centers located within its boundaries from eight to four. Under the leadership of Mayor Emeka Jackson-Hicks, the city of East St. Louis recognized that rather than simply closing their center, they could transfer operations to St. Clair County and open the CENCOM West Dispatch Facility.

The establishment of the center provides a critical redundancy, as it is identical in operations to the CENCOM East facility in Belleville. CENCOM West, located in East St. Louis’ city hall, now handles 911 and dispatching services for East St. Louis, Cahokia, Sauget, Dupo, East Carondelet, Alorton, Centreville, Brooklyn, Washington Park, Caseyville, and a portion of unincorporated western St. Clair County. By seizing this unique opportunity, the leaders of East St. Louis and St. Clair County will save thousands of dollars by consolidating previously duplicated costs and allow for the renovation and technological improvements necessary to support 911 operations for years to come.

Bike Share Working Group

The launch of bike and scooter share in the city of St. Louis has brought an affordable and healthy option for neighborhood mobility and recreation to the region while augmenting our existing transit system. The program’s initial success—with more than 300,000 rides since its launch in April—is thanks to the dedication and collaboration of the many diverse stakeholders involved in the Bike Share Working Group, which helped advise project managers at Bi-State Development and the city of St. Louis in writing the regulations and formulating the program’s goals.

One of the working group’s chief achievements is the inclusion of some of the most robust social equity requirements for any bike or scooter share permit nationwide. These include having a non-smart phone and cash payment option, tracking and implementing an equity and engagement plan, and maintaining 20 percent of their fleet in Social Equity and Inclusion Target Neighborhoods. The target areas cover neighborhoods that have high concentrations of low income households, zero-care households, non-English speakers, and people of color. In addition, data submitted by bike and scooter share operators indicates that nearly 12,000 rides have connected to transit, showing that the program is achieving its goal of enhancing first mile/last mile connections. Thanks to the contributions of many nonprofits, community organizations, business partners, and elected officials to the Bike Share Working Group, St. Louis is now being held up across the country as a best practice for how to implement bike/scooter share with smart regulations that keep social equity at the forefront.
CityArchRiver

The completion of the $380 million CityArchRiver project is a monumental undertaking that has wholly transformed the St. Louis region’s most iconic landmark through a historic partnership of federal, state, and local governments along with the private sector. The core partners on the project include the National Park Service, Great Rivers Greenway, Bi-State Development, Gateway Arch Park Foundation, the city of St. Louis, and Jefferson National Parks Association. These agencies and others pulled together a remarkable mix of public and private funds for design and construction, including more than $221 million from gifts, grants, and donations raised by the CityArchRiver Foundation. The project would also not have been possible without the support of the voters of the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County, who provided $90 million through the passage of Proposition P.

The result is a long list of improvements that upgrade the visitor experience in every way. Notably, access for people families and individuals who have a wheelchair or limited mobility has been improved with seven miles of new, accessible pedestrian pathways and better connections to downtown St. Louis, Laclede’s Landing, and the riverfront. The enlarged and renovated visitor center also incorporated the feedback and knowledge of a group of citizens with disabilities. Taken together, these steps ensure that people of all abilities can explore and enjoy everything this site has to offer, inside and out. The enhanced and expanded green space, new museum, revitalized riverfront and seamless connections created by the CityArchRiver project ensures that the recently-renamed Gateway Arch National Park will remain an iconic destination for residents and visitors alike for generations to come.

Rise Community Development — Gravois-Jefferson Historic Neighborhoods Plan

With the completion of the Gravois-Jefferson Historic Neighborhoods Plan, Rise Community Development and its partners have set a new standard for community planning. The plan establishes a vision for three adjacent neighborhoods in the city of St. Louis (Benton Park West, Gravois Park and Dutchtown) and sets out 304 specific recommendations for achieving that vision. While most plans of this nature focus on the physical condition of a neighborhood, the Gravois-Jefferson Plan is much more comprehensive in scope, focusing on a wide range of community priorities, such as safety, youth and education, housing, and more.

Rise and its partners worked diligently and creatively to ensure the process met the needs of the local community. In addition to steering committees, public meetings and surveys, the planning team focused on engaging individuals often underrepresented in planning processes—stakeholder interviews and focus groups included diverse constituencies, materials were made available in multiple languages, and “pop-up stands” were set up at local community events. Although only recently adopted by the city of St. Louis, the Gravois-Jefferson Plan is already producing results with residents and local community development nonprofits identifying and taking actions to implement its recommendations. By prioritizing community engagement and an organic process, Rise has helped the residents of Benton Park West, Gravois Park, and Dutchtown create an actionable framework for accessible, sustainable and inclusive neighborhoods.