

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Academy for Public Administration Presents Three 2016 Public Service Excellence Awards

Two highly accomplished individuals, and a team of dedicated staff from New York State agencies, will be honored on Monday, May 16th in a ceremony at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs in Albany with 2016 Public Service Excellence Awards presented by the State Academy for Public Administration (SAPA). The Public Service Recognition Week ceremony will begin at 5:00 p.m. Susan Arbetter, Public Affairs Director of WCNY-TV will be the Master of Ceremonies for the awards.

“State government and public agencies at all levels of government are confronting tough challenges, and these extraordinary public servants are among those who lead the way to make sure programs and services are delivered effectively,” said Paul Shatsoff, chair of the SAPA Board of Directors. “Their good work is often out of the public eye. The State Academy is very pleased to honor their accomplishments.”

SAPA is an organization of government professionals and academics established in 1974 that is dedicated to engaging the skills of senior leaders to advance public service in New York State. In addition to its Public Service Excellence Award Program, its programs include “Candid Conversations” which feature discussions with leaders on a variety of public service-related topics, the Nelson A. Rockefeller Award for Distinguished Careers in Public Service, and cooperative efforts with partner organizations such as the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany, the Rockefeller Institute and the New York Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants.

The two individual Excellence Award recipients for 2016 are:

- **Jill Anderson, Senior Vice-President of Commercial Operations** at the New York Power Authority is being honored for her leadership of a wide range of critical activities of the Authority in the operation of 16 electrical generating facilities and their coordination with the Independent System Operator. She also launched clean energy programs to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from state-owned and managed buildings; programs to increase the installation of solar arrays on school campuses, and implemented the world’s largest research and development facility addressing electric system resilience and advance use of renewable resources and smart-grid technology. Jill also founded Women in Power, a NYPA employee resource group.

- **Jeff Pitkin, Treasurer & Internal Control Officer** of the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority for the past 25 years is responsible for managing the finances and internal controls of NYSERDA. He initiated a system for electronic processing of vendor invoices and contracting actions. He contributed substantially to implementation of creative financing mechanisms for clean energy projects including on-bill recovery that allows homeowners to make homes more energy efficient without cash up front. Jeff also led the design and implementation of a secondary markets \$24.3 million bond issuance enabling NYSERDA to finance low interest rate energy efficiency loans to more than 3,200 consumers. He was also involved in the design and recent implementation of the \$1 Billion NY Green Bank allowing the deployment of renewable energy and efficiency projects throughout the state.

SAPA also will present a Team Excellence Award to the **NYS Department of Taxation and Finance Corporate Tax Reform Group**. This team did all of the ground work for a proposal that led to sweeping corporation tax reform and was responsible for its eventual implementation. This was accomplished through internal cooperation of all affected units of the department and extensive collaboration with numerous stakeholder groups subject to the tax through nearly 100 meetings to address all parties' needs and interests. The team's comprehensive approach to reform and the intensive collaboration with affected businesses was validated in three stages.

- Governor Cuomo's Tax Reform and Fairness Commission recommended adoption of the entire reform proposal;
- The Governor included the package in the Executive Budget;
- The package was enacted into law virtually unchanged from the team's proposal.

The Team continued its work after enactment to ensure fast and effective implementation of all needed changes in operations of the Department and affected parties.

During the ceremony, the New York Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants will present their Outstanding Achievement in Government Accountability Award to Joseph Conroy, Chief Budget Examiner at the NYS Division of the Budget.

Additional information about the State Academy for Public Administration is available at www.stateacademy.org.

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