ROLE MODELS IN PUBLIC SERVICE HONORED AT 2013 ASPA CONFERENCE

Washington, DC - The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) and the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) will honor public servants who, often unknown to the public, help guide the U.S. government forward and make government better. The 2013 National Public Service Award (NPSA) recipients include a city manager, a labor advocate and an IT specialist.

The NPSA recognizes exceptional accomplishments and outstanding contributions by public servants and is the only award that recognizes the contributions of public service practitioners across all sectors of government. The recipients will accept their award on Monday, March 18 at the ASPA Conference in New Orleans.

Recipients often come from diverse backgrounds and are viewed as models of public service, demonstrating a willingness to take risks to achieve change, making a profound difference to improve services to the public and contributing to the communities in which they live. The 2013 winners represent employees at the nonprofit, federal, executive and state level.

Kevin Duggan – Duggan serves as West Coast Regional Director for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). For more than 40 years, Duggan has dedicated his professional life to city management and local government. He is a former city manager and the current liaison between the ICMA and professional associations in five states. His achievements have included leading ICMA’s reforms of scandal-riddled Bell, CA as well as active leadership of the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities.

Elizabeth Fretwell – Fretwell serves as City Manager of Las Vegas. Described as a dynamic and innovative leader, she shepherded Las Vegas through a daunting economic recession. She presented a balanced budget and has been instrumental in building regional partnerships and networks among the public, private and non-profit sectors. Her leadership was recently recognized by Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval who asked Fretwell to lead regional economic development efforts.

Warren Gove – As an information technology expert, Gove was an integral member of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) redesign and launch of a new processing system. His team implemented an improved process for incident management to improve IRS resolution of systems-related issues. He was also instrumental in the deployment of a process that emphasized timely, upfront engagement. As the
leader of a project that was time sensitive, Gove established a collaborative, high-performing team encouraging participation that resulted in the IRS effective transformation of its processing systems.

Jacqueline Simon – An expert on federal employee issues, Simon has been an integral part of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) campaigns to protect the federal workforce. As a trained economist, Simon has helped craft her association’s response to several budgets proposed and presented by Congress and the President. She has vigorously defended the Federal Employee Retirement System and the Civil Service Retirement System. She is a member of the Federal Salary Council and the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee. Her passion for economic justice has been central to her advocacy and professional success.

“The 2013 award-winners are role models to all public servants,” said ASPA President Tom Liou. “These individuals exemplify the qualities needed by leaders in government today including dedication, hard work and concern for the public good.”

In addition, ASPA will present the Roslyn Kleeman Keeper of the Flame Award. Established in 2000, this award pays special tribute to an individual who has continued to provide public service after their official retirement from the profession. The award was renamed in 2003 to honor Rosslyn S. Kleeman, a woman who chaired the National Public Service Award Selection Committee for many years. Roz Kleeman exemplifies the concept of continuing to serve even after retirement. This year’s recipient, Thomas Lynch, identifies closely with the ideals of the Keeper of the Flame Award.

Lynch is Professor Emeritus from Louisiana State University and currently serves as president of the International Academy of Interfaith Studies. He has worked at the state and federal level. He is a recognized author and editor. He founded The Bureaucrat and served as editor for 10 years. He also founded the Section of Budget Financial Management, now ABFM. He is a past president of ASPA and founding editor of Global Virtue Ethics Review.

For more information on the NPSA program, please visit www.aspanet.org/2013conference.

###