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OHIO YOUTH GROUP WINS NATIONAL EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AWARD

Washington, DC - An anti-violence, youth civic group will be awarded the 2015 Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Exemplary Practice Award from the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). The Akron PeaceMakers, a group of youth working to combat violence and antipathy about government in its community, was selected for its campaign, You and the Law, which teaches citizens how to interact with law enforcement.

In the wake of several police-related shootings across the country, including one in Cleveland, the PeaceMakers initiated the campaign to empower citizens with information about how to respond when stopped by police. Hundreds of the palm cards were distributed to Akron’s public schools, churches, community houses and neighborhood watch groups.

The group will be recognized for the program and its work promoting a more just and equal society by addressing a complex problem through an innovative and effective approach. It will accept their award in Chicago on Sunday, March 8 at the Gloria Hobson Nordin Social Equity Luncheon during ASPA’s Annual Conference.

The group was nominated by ASPA board member, Nancy R. Foye Cox. On learning about the group’s selection, Cox said, “I am a big fan of the PeaceMakers. After reading about their campaign in the local newspaper, I recognized immediately the national significance of this project, which gives hope to the nation following the rash of youth deaths. Thus, I nominated them for the award as I exit the ASPA national council.”

The PeaceMakers are among twenty outstanding individuals and organizations that will be honored during ASPA’s Annual Conference as part of the Society’s Awards program. Scholars, public and nonprofit leaders as well as organizations will be recognized for extraordinary contributions to public service, including success developing new leaders, scholarship that strengthens knowledge and lifetime contributions to public service and ASPA. To view the complete list of 2015 award winners, visit www.aspanet.org.

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About ASPA: The American Society for Public Administration is the largest and most prominent professional association in public administration. It is dedicated to advancing the art, science, teaching and practice of public and non-profit administration. Learn more at www.aspanet.org.