

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC – Denver Sister Cities International (DSCI) has won Sister Cities International's (SCI) 2016 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population greater than 500,000. The 2016 SCI Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2015 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

In 2015, DSCI successfully facilitated all sister cities partnerships for the City of Denver, prepared individuals for life in a multi-cultural world, facilitated and enhanced the relationships that promote international trade opportunities, and were the premier international resource organization utilized by Denver-area governments, businesses, organizations, educational institutions, and residents.

DSCI specifically demonstrated their excellence through programs including sending an adult delegation to Kunming, China that laid groundwork for future student exchanges, holding a Youth Art Competition alongside their Worldwide Festival, arranging an exchange of Akureyri, Iceland chefs, working alongside Jewish Colorado to add diplomatic components to their existing exchange with Ramat HaNegev, Israel, hosting a trade mission to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia that led to new trade agreements between the cities, strengthening partnerships with Denver International Airport, Visit Denver, World Trade Center Denver, World Denver, Denver Public Library, Colorado Consular Corps, and sending a delegation of two to Cuernavaca's Sabor es Morelos festival in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where they also visited a university, an ecological foundation, and the municipal parks department.

SCI's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners will be honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 16 during SCI's 60th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC.

SCI's 60th anniversary celebration will include an <u>Annual Conference</u> and <u>Youth Leadership Summit</u> in Washington, DC July 13-16, 2016. The celebration will bring together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats will discuss this year's theme "Peace through People," building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 570 member communities with 2,300 partnerships in 150 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.



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