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

WASHINGTON, DC – Tempe Sister Cities (TSC) has won the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 100,001 and 300,000. The SCI Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2016 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

In 2016, TSC coordinated various exchanges that strengthened their sister city relationships and shared important knowledge between participants. TSC established a new sister cities relationship with Agra City, India, which led to the recruitment of 75 member families for exchange programs. Following this agreement, TSC sent 32 students to nine of Tempe's sister cities and furthered the exchange by inviting 34 students from Timbuktu, Mali, and Agra City to visit Tempe. The visiting students were able to experience the quintessential Southwestern United States through a camping trip to the Grand Canyon, a double-decker bus trip through California and along the Pacific Ocean, a trip to Mexico, visits to Native American reservations, and more. TSC also executed educator exchanges with an elementary school in New Zealand and three high schools in Germany to share educational techniques. Additionally, TSC added several more board members bringing their board up to 50 members to reflect the growth of the organization.

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 15 during SCI's 61st Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

SCI's 61st [Annual Conference](#) events, which include a [Youth Leadership Summit](#) and a [U.S.-Russia Mayors' Summit](#), will take place in Virginia Beach, VA from July 12-16, 2017. The events 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 "Global Communities for World Peace," building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships through communities.

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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 over 500 member communities with 2,000 partnerships in 145 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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