

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Governor Terry Branstad presented with *Sister Cities International's*
Michael A. Guido Award**

WASHINGTON, DC – Governor Terry Branstad of Iowa was presented with *Sister Cities International's* distinguished Michael A. Guido Distinguished Leadership Award. The award was presented to him during *Sister Cities International's* Annual Conference in Jacksonville, FL, July 12-14.

Governor Branstad, throughout his tenure, has been a keen supporter of the citizen diplomacy movement. He is credited with forming a number of Iowa's sister state relationships. The Governor continues to undertake several business and trade missions to sister states that pave the way in furthering Iowa's growth.

Accepting the award via a video message, Governor Branstad thanked *Sister Cities International* and said that Iowa's sister state relationships have really made a difference for the state and the country. He pointed out that Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping's affinity to Iowa started through a sister state visit. During his official visit to Iowa this year as China's Vice President, Xi secured a purchase of \$4.31 billion worth of soybeans in a meeting at the World Food Prize Center in Des Moines.

The Michael A. Guido Distinguished Leadership Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional support to the sister city and citizen diplomacy movement, and have distinguished themselves as outstanding global leaders. Previous recipients include, former Mayor Richard Daley, Representative Donald Payne of New Jersey, and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson.

Iowa currently has 8 sister state relationships including Cherkasy, Ukraine; Hebei, China; Stavropol, Russia; Taiwan; Terengganu, Malaysia; Veneto, Italy; Yamanashi, Japan; and Yucatan, Mexico.

About *Sister Cities International*

Sister Cities International facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries on six continents between 600 communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad. *Sister Cities International* represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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