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**KETTERING SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD**

WASHINGTON, DC –Kettering Sister Cities Association (KSCA) has won the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 50,001 and 100,000. 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, KSCA 40 years of continuous student exchanges by sponsoring both adult and student exchanges to their two sister cities, Kettering, England and Steyr, Austria. This was the first time KSCA sent adults and students to their sister cities at the same time. KSCA also held their annual Austrian festival “Spas Nacht,” where volunteers donated homemade baked goods and sold authentic German cuisine to fundraise for student expenses on exchange trips. “A particular point of pride for the City of Kettering is our award-winning Kettering Sister Cities Program” said Kettering Mayor Don Patterson. The active support and enthusiasm of KSCA volunteers and youth in strengthening their programs exemplifies the SCI mission to promote peace through the actions of individuals and communities.

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 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

SCI’s 61<sup>st</sup> [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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