



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 9, 2004

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Retired LOC Director Receives Kehrli Award

SALEM – The League of Oregon Cities' (LOC) prestigious Herman Kehrli Award for 2004 was presented to Dick Townsend, executive director of LOC for 17 years, during the League's 79th Annual Conference, November 4-6 in Portland.

The award is granted to a city employee who has made exceptional contributions to city government in Oregon that produce lasting benefits to local communities.

Background – Dick Townsend

Townsend has been a familiar name to city officials for over two decades. He was hired by the League of Oregon Cities as a lobbyist in 1983. He had previously served as city manager in Tillamook and Lowell for nine years. He became LOC Executive Director in 1985, and in his first year, led a major effort to bring the League and its member cities closer together as he and League staff visited over 90 percent of the 238 member cities. Townsend strengthened LOC's relationship with local government partners, oversaw the construction of the Local Government Center and even established the program that annually presents the Herman Kehrli Award.

About the Herman Kehrli Award

From 1933 to 1966, Herman Kehrli served as Executive Secretary of the League of Oregon Cities and Director of the University of Oregon's former Bureau of Governmental Research and Service. A joint effort between the League and Bureau established standards of excellence for local government officials through an agenda that includes research, consultation and training in city government affairs. The quality of Oregon city government today is due in large part to the success of this joint effort.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the League of Oregon Cities is a voluntary association representing 239 Oregon cities. The League helps city governments provide service to citizens through legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

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