

**CITY OF HINESVILLE WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S  
INNOVATION AWARD (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**

WASHINGTON, DC – The City of Hinesville has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Innovation Award (Economic Development) for a city with a population less than 100,000. The 2014 Sister Cities International Innovation Award (Economic Development) recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

The City of Hinesville was extended a personal invitation by Mr. Wang Xia, Chairman of the CCPIT-Automotive Subcouncil and host of the Global Auto Forum (GAF) to attend the fourth annual GAF on October 17-18, 2013 in Wuhan, China. Attending the GAF provided the City of Hinesville with an exclusive opportunity to meet key decision makers within the Chinese automotive industry.

Through the efforts of Lily Yang, Hinesville's Chinese Sister City Representative, the Hinesville delegation was given a special closed-door meeting with key executives from the Chinese automakers. Mayor Thomas and Ron Tolley made presentations introducing the City of Hinesville/Liberty County as prime candidates for potential site locations as Chinese automakers look to expand to the U.S. market.

To successfully participate in this forum, the City of Hinesville collaborated with International Auto Processing and Liberty County Development Authority.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Energy/Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, August 2, during Sister Cities International's 58th Annual Conference in San Jose, California.

The Sister Cities International 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in the exciting capital of Silicon Valley to discuss, "The Power of Digital Diplomacy". Conference sessions will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about strengthening their sister city programs through informative sessions led by experts and industry leaders. For more information on the 2014 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: [www.SisterCitiesConference.org](http://www.SisterCitiesConference.org).

# # #

**About Sister Cities International**

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

Facebook: [Sister Cities International](https://www.facebook.com/SisterCitiesInternational); Twitter: [@SisterCitiesInt](https://twitter.com/SisterCitiesInt); Website: [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)