

**LEXINGTON SISTER CITIES WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S
BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD**

WASHINGTON, DC – Lexington Sister Cities has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 100,001 to 300,000. The 2014 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2013 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

In 2013, Lexington Sister Cities conducted a host a projects focusing on education, youth, municipal, arts and culture. A total of 71 students participated in 2013 high school exchange programs – 43 students from Lexington and 29 students from their sister cities. 45 students entered the Sister Cities Young Artist Competition in Lexington from 5 different schools.

A delegation of 35 from Lexington visited County Kildare to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the two cities' twinning. An exchange between arborists from Lexington and County Kildare was also carried out in September and October of 2013. Lexington Sister Cities also participated in local events including – the St. Patrick's Day Festival, Kentucky League of Cities Convention, One World Film Festival, and hosted the Kentucky Sister Cities State Meeting.

In 2014, Lexington Sister Cities will continue to implement successful exchanges and will focus on youth, education, medicine, and culinary arts among other areas.

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 58th 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.

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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.

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