COSSA to Present 2019 Distinguished Service, Public Impact Awards to Champions of Evidence-Based Policymaking

Washington, D.C. — The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) has announced its plans to recognize two sets of champions of the evidence-based policymaking movement with its 2019 awards. COSSA's 2019 Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Katharine Abraham and Ron Haskins, whose leadership of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking helped catalyze efforts across federal agencies to integrate science- and evidence-based decision-making into the everyday work of government. In 2019, COSSA will also present its first-ever Public Impact Award to The Lab @ DC, a team of social scientists working within the District of Columbia government to use scientific methods and insights to test and improve District policies and programs. Both awards will be officially presented at a Celebration of Social Science Reception on April 30, 2019 as part of COSSA's 2019 Social Science Advocacy Day festivities. More information about the awards is available on COSSA's website.

"This year's awardees have collectively demonstrated the important contributions the social and behavioral sciences can make to helping government better serve its citizens when they are given the resources, opportunity, and freedom to thrive," said COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus. "We are so pleased to recognize Ron and Katharine's work toward fulfilling the promise of evidence-based policymaking both through their own distinguished careers and through their work with the Commission. And I can think of no better recipient of COSSA's first Public Impact Award than The Lab @ DC, which has, in its very short history, shown how social and behavioral science insights can markedly improve lives and increase government efficiency and has served as a model for states and localities around the country."

Katharine Abraham and Ron Haskins were appointed chair and co-chair (respectively) of the Commission on Evidenced-Based Policymaking in 2016. Under their leadership, the Commission's deliberative processes and subsequent recommendations reflected a thoughtful, forward-looking vision that would reshape the way evidence and data could be used in decision-making. After the publication of the Commission's report, they remained committed to ensuring that the Commission's recommendation did not meet the fate of so many well-intentioned but ultimately ineffective reports produced in Washington and collaborated with stakeholders within and outside of the government, leading to the enactment of meaningful changes in policy through new activities within the Executive Branch and the passage of the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.*

Katharine Abraham is currently the Director of the Maryland Center for Economics and Policy, and a professor of Survey Methodology and Economics at the University of Maryland. Ron Haskins is the Cabot Family Chair in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, where he co-directs the Center on Children and Families.

The Lab @ DC was established in 2017 within the administration of District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser with the support of the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. The Lab designs policy and program interventions and evaluations that are tailored to the District, based on theory and evidence from academic and industrial research, as well as analyses of administrative data. Its work has touched a variety of areas related to the DC government, from evaluating body-worn cameras to improve policing, to piloting flexible rent programs to address homelessness, to collaborating with DC residents to help improve government forms.

About the Awards
The COSSA Distinguished Service Award recognizes leaders who have gone above and beyond to promote, protect, and advance the social and behavioral science research enterprise. The newly established COSSA Public Impact Award seeks to celebrate ways individuals or organizations are using social and behavioral science research to achieve notable improvements in communities. Awardees are chosen by the COSSA Board of Directors, which represents COSSA's governing member associations.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

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