

Item Title: Recognition of Recent Awards

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners recognizes recent award winners.

Item Summary:

EMS, Information Systems and Environmental Services Honored by Harvard for Bright Ideas in Government

Two Wake County initiatives were recognized nationally as Bright Ideas in Government by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

EMS was recognized for its Advance Practice Paramedic program, which trains paramedics to respond alongside ambulances to select EMS call types, including mental health and substance abuse crisis calls. If no other immediate medical care requiring the emergency department is needed, the ambulance returns to service, and the APP remains with the patient to coordinate transportation and direct entry into a mental health-specific treatment facility.

Information Services and Environmental Services partnered with Yelp, the leading platform for restaurant reviews by customers, to make sanitation scores for food establishments more accessible. Wake County now pushes the sanitation scores to Yelp daily, so users will see a restaurant's inspection score right next to reviews. Clicking through the scores also provides users with an easy-to-understand summary of infractions. There is no direct cost associated with the project, only a small amount of staff time to establish the data connection.

These initiatives are part of a cohort of more than 60 programs from all levels of government that represent the next horizon of work to improve services, solve problems, and work on behalf of citizens.

This is the fifth cohort recognized through the Bright Ideas program, an initiative of the broader Innovations in American Government Awards program. For consideration as a Bright Idea, programs must currently be in operation or in the process of launching, have sufficient operational resources, and must be administered by one or more governmental entities. Bright Ideas are showcased on the Ash Center's Government Innovators Network, an online platform for practitioners and policymakers to share innovative public policy solutions.

A list of awards and recognitions can be found at:
wakegov.com/awards/Lists/Recognitions/AllItems.aspx.

Attachments:

None