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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2010

2010 NASPO Annual Conference Highlights Efficiency, Cooperative Purchasing and Emergency Response

The National Association of State Procurement Officials celebrated its 63rd year at its Annual Conference from August 23-26, 2010 in Washington, D.C. Chief Procurement Officers and staff from 40 states plus the District of Columbia attended the meeting. The Annual Conference agenda and session presentations are available for viewing on the NASPO website: http://www.naspo.org/2010annual/content.cfm/id/2010annual_schedule.

NASPO's Annual Conference is a time for members to engage in in-depth, peer-to-peer information exchange focusing on procurement successes, issues and initiatives from other states as well as other governmental jurisdictions. Featured sessions included:

- Gene Dodaro, Acting Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, briefed participants on state and local governments' use of Recovery Act (ARRA) funds.
- Michael G. Caudell-Feagan, Deputy Director, Pew Center on the States, moderated a NASPO member panel discussion of their "States Buying Smarter" issue brief and highlighted innovative ways states are streamlining procurement operations.
- An all-star panel discussion of the upcoming midterm elections, featuring noted political pundits Chris Matthews, Mike Allen and EJ Dionne.

NASPO also recognized procurement excellence by presenting the Gulio Mazzone Distinguished Service Award to Ellen Phillips, the Deputy State Purchasing Agent for the state of Massachusetts. Phillips is a past NASPO president with more than 20 years experience in state procurement. Phillips played a major role in procurement reform in Massachusetts, culminating in her being awarded the Manual Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service.

NASPO Cronin Awards for Procurement Excellence (Gold) were presented to Minnesota and Wisconsin for their Partnership Initiative. The State of Georgia won the Cronin Silver Award for the state's "Spend Under Management" (SUM) Initiative, while Ohio's Local Print Consolidation Program won the Bronze Award. Submissions were judged against criteria including innovation, transferability, service improvement, uniqueness and originality, demonstrable cost-reduction, and the involvement of using agencies. Information on the NASPO Mazzone and Cronin Awards may be found on the association's website: http://www.naspo.org/content.cfm/id/cronin_award.

The Annual Conference provides NASPO members an opportunity to conduct official business regarding the future direction of the organization. Greg Smith (NV) was sworn in as President, while Ron Bell (VA) was elected President-Elect. Other members elected to the NASPO Board were Deborah Damore, (VT), Vern Jones (AK), Dean Stotler (DE) and Carol Wilson (CT).

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The National Association of State Procurement Officials is a non-profit association dedicated to strengthening the procurement community through education, research, and communication. It is made up of the directors of the central purchasing offices in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States. NASPO is an organization through which the member purchasing officials provide leadership in professional public purchasing, improve the quality of purchasing and procurement, exchange information and cooperate to attain greater efficiency and economy. Please visit www.naspo.org for additional information.

For more information on NASPO and its recent initiatives, please contact Matt Grayson, NASPO Issues Coordinator at (859) 514-9195 or mgrayson@amrms.com.

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