



CITY OF TUCSON

NEWS RELEASE

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Date: Feb. 3, 2020
TDD: 791-2639

CITY MANAGER MICHAEL ORTEGA WINS STATE AWARD

Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega recently won the John J. DeBolske Professional Excellence Award from the Arizona City/County Management Association (ACMA). The award was created in 1997 to recognize city/county managers who demonstrate the highest level of professional excellence in local government and who have made life contributions in serving the profession.

This award is the highest honor that ACMA may bestow upon a member. The namesake of the award, Jack DeBolske, was the executive director of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns for 40 years.

The award recognizes Ortega's strong leadership, professional network, mentoring, and integrity he brings to his job. Since his hiring in July 2015, Ortega has successfully helmed four structurally balanced budget cycles that improved the City's bond rating, recommended cost-of-living adjustments for employees, and reorganized City departments to break down silos and create efficiencies.

Ortega began his career in public service for the City of Douglas, Arizona in 1994, where he served at the director and city engineer in the Public Works department before becoming city manager. He's also held positions as Douglas' city manager, Cochise County administrator, and served as the Arizona state engineer assistant director for the Department of Transportation, where he oversaw 6,700 miles of state highways. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in business administration, both from the University of Arizona.

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