

# Cleveland State University

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs Northeast Ohio's Certified Public Manager Participant Wins National George W. Askew Award**

Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs Northeast Ohio's Certified Public Manager (OCPM) Program Cohort #24 participant Kurtis W. Brzyszc, Ashland's Assistant City Engineer, is the recipient of the National 2006 George C. Askew Award for his project entitled, "Developing a Storm Water Management Program" for the City of Ashland, Ohio.

The George C. Askew Award is a prestigious national award presented to individuals for the utilization of management practices that exemplify the philosophy of the American Academy of Certified Public Managers in the completion of an exceptional curriculum project. The award is named in honor of George C. Askew, who was the first person to receive Certified Public Manager Certification.

The goal of Brzyszc's project was to create a perpetual and dedicated revenue source to specifically fund the city's storm water management program and ensure consistent compliance with federal and state Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. The process spanned nearly a year of detailed planning, organizing, data collection and analysis with a team of engineers, managers and leaders –stakeholders and customers – from several city departments and the community. On January 17, 2006, the Ashland City Council passed Ordinance No. 5-06 that established a storm water utility for the City of Ashland, Ohio.

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“We are extremely proud that our OCPM program project was selected as the national winner,” said Charles Phelps, Levin College Leadership Program director. “Developing a Storm Water Management Program for the City of Ashland, Ohio is a project that exemplifies the Askew Award selection criteria in that it is innovative in its approach, demonstrates an improvement in quality within the work unit as a result of the project, and shows measurable results – cost savings, efficiency and customer satisfaction – as a result of the project. The fact that legislation was passed to implement this project is the highest compliment a public administrator can receive for a job well done.”

This is the third consecutive national George W. Askew Award that the Levin College's OCPM cohorts have won. The Northeast Ohio Certified Public Manager Program, coordinated by the Levin College's Leadership Program, is a satellite program of the Ohio Certified Manager Program that is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in partnership with the Ohio Urban University Program (UUP) and the Ohio Rural University Program (RUP). The OCPM curriculum is 300 hours of professional management and leadership training in four learning areas: general administration skills; technical, quantitative and qualitative skills; analytical and conceptual skills; and human relations skills.

A new OCPM cohort will begin in February 2007 at the Levin College and in April 2007 in Ashland. For further details and program information, contact Charles Phelps, Leadership Program Director, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, at (216) 523-7498 or via e-mail at [charles@urban.csuohio.edu](mailto:charles@urban.csuohio.edu).

For more information or media inquiries, contact Nancy Carlucci Smith, Communication Account Representative, Cleveland State University Department of Marketing and Public Affairs, at (216) 523-7294 or (216) 687-2290.

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