

May 4, 2010

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Sarasota County receives award for 2010 budget preparation

Sarasota County's Office of Financial Planning and Budget Director Steve Botelho have received the highest form of professional recognition in governmental budgeting for the county's budget for fiscal year 2010. It's the 20th consecutive year the county has received the award.

The Government Finance Officers Association has presented Sarasota County with its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. "The GFOA determined that the county's budget reflects the highest principles of governmental accounting," Botelho said.

Sarasota County had to meet nationally recognized guidelines designed to assess how well a budget serves as a policy, financial and operations document, and as a public information resource. Budget documents must be proficient in all four categories to receive the award.

"This award represents a significant achievement for Sarasota County, and it means our budget can serve as an example for other governments," Botelho said. "The budget reflects the work of the entire organization, not just the Office of Financial Planning. This award really belongs to the entire staff of Sarasota County."

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving 17,500 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide excellent examples for other governments.

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