



Date: January 15, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kenajawa Woody
Title: Communication Specialist
Phone: 904-279-0880
Email: kwoody@nefrc.org

P R E S S R E L E A S E

2024 Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Award Winners Announced

Jacksonville, FL—On January 9, 2025, the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) hosted the 21st Annual Regional Awards for Excellence and Elected Officials Luncheon, bringing together leaders and visionaries from across the region to celebrate outstanding contributions to Northeast Florida.

The event, held to honor the 2024 Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Awards winners, recognized innovative projects and remarkable individuals who exemplify a commitment to enhancing the region's communities.

The ceremony's highlight was the prestigious Regional Leadership Award presentation to former City of St. Augustine City Commissioner Roxanne Horvath. As a Regional Council Board Member for over a decade, Horvath has left an indelible mark through her dedication to community service and regional resiliency efforts.

NEFRC also celebrated winners in 11 other categories, each representing excellence in a critical area of community and regional development:

- **Affordable Housing** – Heirs Property-LISC Jacksonville
- **Culture and Historic Preservation** – Nassau 200/Fernandina Beach 200 Bicentennial Celebrations
- **Economic Development** – PLANT Agricultural Systems - Baker County Economic Development Commission
- **Environmental Stewardship** – Nassau County - Atlantic to Okefenokee Florida Forever Designation
- **Healthcare Emergency Preparedness** – UF Health Pediatric Evacuation Full Scale Exercise
- **Planning and Growth Management** – City of Palm Coast - Imagine 2050 City on the Rise
- **Public Safety** – Flagler County's FAA Certificate of Waiver for Drones Beyond Line of Sight
- **Quality of Life** – Florida Department of Health – St. Johns County Mobile Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
- **Resiliency** – St. Johns County's Alpine Groves Park Shoreline Restoration
- **Transportation** – Clay County's Bonded Transportation Program
- **Special Achievement** – Henry Dean, former St. Johns County Commissioner

Beth Payne, CEO of NEFRC, expressed her admiration for the winners and their contributions: "The projects and leaders we recognized today demonstrate the incredible ingenuity and dedication of our region. Roxanne Horvath's unwavering service is a shining example of leadership that inspires positive change. We are proud to celebrate her and the many accomplishments across Northeast Florida."



The NEFRC, an independent regional government agency serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, and St. Johns counties, continues to enhance the quality of life for Northeast Florida residents by addressing economic development, emergency preparedness, resiliency, and community development.

For more information about the Northeast Florida Regional Council and its initiatives, visit www.nefrc.org.

####