SEMCOG announces this year's Taubman Fellows; two local government leaders will attend prestigious Harvard program this summer

Bryan Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills, and Kym Worthy, Wayne County Prosecutor, have been named Taubman Fellows and will attend the prestigious program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University this summer.

Administered through SEMCOG, The Taubman Company's Fellowship for Executive Excellence provides local public officials with demonstrated leadership an opportunity to improve their management skills and broaden their awareness of effective approaches to public sector problems.

Since 1991, The Taubman Company has sponsored the fellowship and underscored its support for the development of effective leaders in local government in the Southeast Michigan region. "We’ve been delighted to underwrite this program since its inception 20 years ago. It is a wonderful opportunity for local public sector leaders to broaden their perspectives and enhance their abilities to better serve the public," notes Robert S. Taubman, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer. "Our commitment is reaffirmed each year when we invite the graduates to our offices to share first-hand their individual experiences."

This year's Taubman Fellows have strong records of local government leadership.

Bryan Barnett has been mayor of Rochester Hills since 2006. He is the youngest mayor elected in Rochester Hills history and the second youngest in a U.S. city with a population over 50,000. One of Barnett’s accomplishments is starting the first recycling rewards program in Michigan; the Recyclebank Program raised community participation from 18 to 90 percent and diverted over 10 million pounds of trash in less than a year. “My most significant challenge is attempting to balance increased resident expectations and rising costs with shrinking revenues,” Barnett said.

Kym Worthy was elected Wayne County Prosecutor in 2003, with a long record of judiciary service, including Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, Recorder’s Court Judge, and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Wayne County is the largest county in the state and the 13th largest in the U.S. Her office prosecutes over 80,000 cases a year on a $28 million budget (down more than $4
million in the past two years). “I am deeply committed to public service and changing the culture of violence. I want government to be more accountable, transparent, and corruption free. I want the public to be more involved in the solutions. I want to participate in more collaborations and partnerships. I hope this course will give me needed insight into these challenges as well as new ideas, solutions, and ways to solve public safety problems.”

SEMCOG is a regional planning partnership of governmental units serving 4.9 million people in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan striving to enhance the region's quality of life.

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