



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NATION'S GOVERNORS TO PRESENT FIRST ANNUAL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

**WASHINGTON**—The National Governors Association (NGA) will honor Ford Motor Company as the first recipient of the NGA Public-Private Partnership Award during its upcoming Winter Meeting. The award will be presented Sunday, Feb. 25, during the meeting's second plenary session.

The NGA Public-Private Partnership Awards were established to recognize [NGA Corporate Fellow](#) companies for noteworthy partnerships with governors and states and honor companies that have partnered with a governor's office to implement a program or project that positively affects a state's citizens.

Ford Motor Company, headquartered in Dearborn, Michigan, was nominated by **Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm** for its work in the field of education and the development and growth of the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (Ford PAS) program. Launched in 2004 by Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, and developed in collaboration with Education Development Center, Inc., Ford PAS is a high school curriculum for the 21st century. The program is designed to engage and excite students in business, science, technology, engineering, design and math while building critical problem-solving and innovative thinking and learning skills. Ford PAS, originating in Michigan, is currently used in 130 sites across 21 states and has reached more than 10,000 students since its inception.

"This award is a great opportunity for us to recognize forward-thinking partnerships between states and corporations," said **NGA Chair Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano**. "Ford is dedicated to ensuring our students are ready to meet the challenges of a global economy, a key component of my NGA Chair's initiative [Innovation America](#)."

"As we seek opportunities to make our schools more rigorous and relevant, we appreciate Ford's dedication to forming strong partnerships between public and private sectors and improving our children's educational experience," said **NGA Vice Chair Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty**. "My fellow governors and I are pleased to present them with the first-ever NGA Public-Private Partnership Award, which recognizes the significant investment they have made in our future."

"Ford is honored to be the first recipient of this prestigious NGA Public-Private Partnership Award. Our gratitude goes to Gov. Granholm for her recognition of Ford PAS as an innovative initiative that gives students the kinds of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills needed to succeed in a global knowledge economy," said Ziad Ojakli, group vice president, Corporate Affairs, Ford Motor Company. "Ford Motor Company's commitment to education is driven by our company's core values and the impact that we, as a corporation, want to make in the world in which we live, work and do business."

**MORE**

"Ford PAS shows how companies can work with states and communities to prepare today's young people for success in tomorrow's workplace. As Ford undergoes its own transition to better compete in the global

economy, I commend Ford's leaders for engineering a solution to aggressively cultivate 21<sup>st</sup> century job skills in Michigan and across the nation," said **Gov. Granholm**.

Ford Motor Company was chosen for the NGA Public-Private Partnership Award by an independent selection committee comprised of five members. Areas of consideration included education, environment, health care and public safety. The NGA Corporate Fellows Program promotes the exchange of information between the private sector and governors on emerging trends and factors affecting both business and state government.

For more information about Ford PAS, visit [www.FordPAS.org](http://www.FordPAS.org).

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*Reporters must register for the meeting and wear official NGA meeting credentials to gain access to the sessions. Registration may be completed online at: <http://www.nga.org/WM07/gen> by noon EST on Thursday, Feb. 22. Reporters and producers who missed advance registration may register at the JW Marriott beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, but may experience delays in clearing security and receiving their NGA credential. A government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport, and a current, valid press credential will be required to pick up an NGA credential – even if media pre-register.*

*Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 50 states, three territories and two commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org).*