

South Carolina Certified Public Manager® 2024 George C. Askew Award Winner

The George C. Askew Award is given annually to an individual (or individuals) deemed to have completed an exemplary Certified Public Manager Capstone Project.

It was created by the American Academy of Certified Public Managers® to recognize outstanding projects throughout the country and was named in honor of George C. Askew who, by virtue of being the first name called in the first CPM graduation ceremony in Georgia in 1976, became the first individual to be certified by a Certified Public Manager® program.

Each CPM Program, through its Director, may nominate a capstone project to be given the award for its local program.

The South Carolina Certified Public Manager® Program congratulates the recipient of the 2024 George C. Askew Award, Captain Gabriel Colbert, SC Department of Public Safety.

The criteria for selection include the project should:

- be innovative in its approach.
- demonstrate an improvement in quality within the work unit as a result of the project.
- show cost savings as the result of the implementation of the project.
- be an outstanding demonstration of CPM principles.

Nathan Strong and Bill Tomes serve as project mentors for the program. They review each project in its entirety and provide feedback and guidance to the CPM candidates. There were many great projects that will positively impact agency processes and the citizens of our state. Selecting a winner each year is no small task. Bill Tomes had this to say about this year's Askew Award winner:

"Gabriel Colbert's Fleet Standardization CPM project involved a study of the Department of Public Safety's law enforcement vehicle fleet. The goal of his project was to reduce costs and increase operational efficiency. Gabriel gathered data on vehicle types, how they were equipped, and how vehicles were assigned to various personnel. Gabriel's research focused on vehicles assigned to the State Highway Patrol. He found that standardizing the type of vehicle purchased would save money on the initial purchase price and increase the resale value of the vehicle. Moving from the fully-marked vehicles with light bars to semi-marked vehicles with interior light packages would save money in several different ways. First, fuel savings would result due to an increase in vehicle aerodynamics with the removal of light bars. In the past, when officers were promoted, they received a different vehicle. By standardizing the vehicle types, there would be fewer instances of switching vehicles which would save fleet services time and money. Early estimates of the savings due to Gabriel's project exceed \$500,000 annually."

Three graduates were selected to receive an honorable mention for their projects:

Raquel Salter, SC Department of Natural Resources
Melissa Buchanan, Charles Pinckney National Historical Site
Elizabeth Mosely-Hawkins, SC State University