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Outgoing Charleston County Parks Executive Director David Bennett awarded for lifetime achievement by Explore Charleston

[CHARLESTON COUNTY] – On June 30, Charleston County Parks' Outgoing Executive Director David Bennett received the Golden Pineapple award at the annual meeting for Explore Charleston. The award recognized Bennett for a lifetime of service to the citizens of Charleston County.

The Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, doing business as Explore Charleston, is a 501-C-6 not-for-profit destination marketing organization. Since Explore Charleston's inception in 1985, the Golden Pineapple award has recognized individuals and organizations who promote positive tourism development. Bennett has been with the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) for over 35 years, serving in a number of roles throughout his career before being appointed as executive director in 2017.

"I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to Explore Charleston for this very special recognition," said Bennett. "It has been a great honor to serve the Charleston community, where I was born and raised, for over 35 years."

On July 1, David Bennett began transitioning into retirement from his executive director role with the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC). Over the next 24 months, David will continue to serve as an advisor, a special project manager and the executive director of the Charleston County Parks Foundation. CCPRC's Associate Executive Director Kevin Bowie was appointed by the Commission as the new executive director.

A Charleston native, Bennett graduated from Mars Hill College. Throughout his career, Bennett has been involved in a variety of professional and community organizations, serving on the following boards: the National Recreation and Park

Association, the South Carolina Recreation and Park Association, the Cooper River Bridge Run, James Island Charter High School, the Charleston Area Children's Garden Project, the Charleston Heritage Education Forum, the Charleston County Greenbelt Project's Urban Grants Review Committee, Family Corps, the Bishop Gadsden Trustees and the Wallingford Presbyterian Church Trustees.

For more information on CCPRC, visit CharlestonCountyParks.com or call 843-795-4386.

The mission of CCPRC is to improve the quality of life in Charleston County by offering a diverse system of park facilities, programs and services. The large park system features over 11,000 acres of property and includes four land parks, three beach parks, four seasonally-lifeguarded beach areas, a skate park, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, a historic plantation site, 19 boat landings, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, an equestrian center, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities. The park system also offers a wide variety of recreational services - festivals, camps, classes, programs, volunteer opportunities, and more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386, or visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com.



Photo caption: David Bennett (left) receives the Golden Pineapple award from Explore Charleston Board of Governors Chairman John LaVerne.