



## APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

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### **ARPC 2020 Distinguished Regional Enhancement Advocate Merit (D.R.E.A.M.) Award presented to Wakulla County Commissioner Randy Merritt**

TALLAHASSEE, FL. – In recognition of his outstanding service, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) has awarded Commissioner Merritt with the 2020 DREAM Award. Serving as ARPC Chairman since 2014, Commissioner Merritt’s steady leadership has transformed the ARPC into a thriving, relevant, and respected organization. Due to his guidance, ARPC has expanded focus and services to local governments, increased member engagement, and tripled revenue sources. Commissioner Merritt’s dedication and service have had a tremendous impact across the Region, which consists of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla counties and their municipalities.

The DREAM Award was established in January of 2020. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding performance that goes above and beyond the call of duty in their service with the ARPC.

Recipients of this award are those who embody the true sense of “regionalism” and make an exceptional effort to provide value-add throughout the entire Apalachee Region, not just within their own vested interests or jurisdiction. These Regional Enhancements can take various forms, such as serving as a catalyst to promote regional economic growth or contributing leadership, vision, guidance, expertise or assistance in any of the ARPC program areas toward the completion of transformative, regionally-beneficial projects.

These Advocates help promote ARPC initiatives and work together to create positive change for the counties and municipalities of the Apalachee Region. The contributions from recipients of the DREAM award come at great personal cost, including long hours of promotion, preparation, and advocacy, calling upon legislators and representatives when needed, providing contacts, and making introductions to appropriate outlets.

The DREAM award is merit-based and therefore will not be given out as annual award. This award must be earned as outlined above and is reserved for those who truly are Regional Enhancement Advocates.

#### **PREVIOUS ARPC D.R.E.A.M. RECIPIENT(S)**

**2019: LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER KRISTIN DOZIER**

#### **ABOUT APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) assist with grants, outreach, project implementation, and other planning activities to enhance the nine-county Apalachee Region. The Council houses a variety of programs, including economic/community development, emergency preparedness, transportation, housing, GIS, environmental/resiliency planning, and will soon offer expanded growth management services. By collaborating across these programs and embracing partnerships with local, state, and federal organizations, the ARPC continues to make a positive and lasting impact throughout the Region.

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