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ARNOVA

Presents the

2022 Distinguished Achievement and Leadership in Nonprofit and Voluntary Action Award

to

Alan Abramson

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Alan Abramson is a nationally recognized leader of nonprofit public policy research who has contributed significantly to building our field through service to ARNOVA and many other key institutions for over 40 years. His achievements in research, teaching, service to, and advocacy for our field, eminently qualify him for this award.

As Professor in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University and founding Director of Mason's Center on Nonprofits, Philanthropy, and Social Enterprise, Dr. Abramson helped create one of the premier nonprofit academic programs in Virginia. His excellent scholarship, mentoring of students, strategic management, and community outreach are well-documented, but it is his tireless leadership at the national level that sets him apart and characterizes his many contributions to the field. There are few people who know as much about the major policy issues facing the nonprofit sector as Dr. Abramson and even fewer who are able to communicate findings across sectors. His research has deepened our understanding of the relationship between nonprofits and government. For example, he was an early pioneer, with Lester Salamon, in research on the implications for nonprofits of federal budget decisions. That work, updated by Dr. Abramson over the years, is a key resource for policymakers and nonprofit leaders.

Promotion of, and support for, research that explores the health and sustainability of the nonprofit sector are themes that define Dr. Abramson's service. ARNOVA has been the beneficiary of his expertise in numerous capacities over the years, as president (2015-2016) and through multiple committee assignments including nominations committee, conference

host committee, research committee, development committee and others. He has also served on the editorial boards of NVSQ, and other sector journals, and is currently co-editor of Nonprofit Policy Forum.

One of Dr. Abramson's main roles has been as a scholar-advisor, in great demand for his keen insights and respectful collaboration. His ability to bring people together across institutions and domains has helped to strengthen scholarship and increase its relevance and use. As an organizer of the ARNOVA/Independent Sector Symposium on Public Policy for Nonprofits – now in its 11th year - Dr. Abramson helped to stimulate policy research and bring it to the attention of practitioners and policymakers.

While director of the Aspen Institute's Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy Program (1996-2007), Dr. Abramson commissioned and funded peer-reviewed research. This work demanded extensive fundraising to secure the necessary resources, a field-building role that illustrates his commitment and service. He also convened innovative cross-sector seminars to discuss research on critical issues concerning nonprofit organizations and initiated a series of brief reports that summarized research findings for the busy nonprofit leader or policymaker, helping to bridge the gap between research and practice and research and policy.

In all of these activities, Dr. Abramson exemplifies leadership that is collaborative and inclusive, with national and international reach. Alan Abramson's exceptional achievements and contributions are worthy of ARNOVA's 2022 Distinguished Achievement and Leadership in Nonprofit and Voluntary Action Research Award.