

## OMI, Augusta win prestigious partnership award

OMI's partnership with Augusta, Ga. was honored with the Outstanding Achievement in Public-Private Partnership Award at the U.S. Conference of Mayors winter meeting held in Washington D.C.

The awards are given to celebrate partnerships that share a common synergy that has changed the way city services are delivered.

OMI began its partnership with Augusta in 1999 to manage its wastewater facilities. Under the contract, OMI provides operations and management services at the J.B. Messerly and Spirit Creek wastewater plants, as well as a 400-acre wetlands treatment site. OMI and CH2M HILL also have been involved in program management, capital improvement planning and

construction projects at the facilities.

"We have more than 30 associates who live and work in Augusta, so it's very important to us that we're a real part of the community. I couldn't be more proud of the many people from OMI and Augusta who earned this prestigious award," said Mark Lasswell, OMI president. "Partnering with the public sector is what OMI does, and it's truly an honor that the nation's mayors have acknowledged that we do it well."

A true partner does much more than just run plants. Over the years, the company has shared its award-winning quality training with Augusta staff, sponsored the Mayor's Fishing Hole where local children fish, hosted an open house for residents to learn more about

the facilities and even conducted its regional meetings in town. Last December, OMI donated 30 computers to six local high schools, and scholarships are planned for the same schools in 2004.

"Our partnership with OMI has saved Augusta money while improving our environmental performance. I'm just thrilled the Conference

has recognized all the hard work we've done on our wastewater program," said Mayor Bob Young. As the chair of the conference's Environmental committee and former co-chair of the Urban Water Council, Young is recognized as an expert among mayors on public-private partnerships and environmental issues.



OMI and Augusta are presented with the Outstanding Achievement in Public-Private Partnership Award. From left to right: Mayor Betty Flores of Laredo, Texas; Mayor Bob Young of Augusta, Ga.; Max Hicks, Augusta Utilities Director; and Mark Lasswell, OMI president.