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**For Immediate Release**

**DR. PATRICIA M. SOBRERO RECEIVES INAUGURAL COMMUNITY CHANGE AWARD**

The Academy for Community Engagement Scholarship (ACES) presented its inaugural Community Change Award to Dr. Patricia M. Sobrero at its annual meeting on August 19, 2025. The award recognizes the exemplary work of scholars and community members who advance the understanding and impact of community engagement partnerships to build resilient communities.

Patricia M. Sobrero is a retired professor, Agriculture and Extension Education, and former associate vice chancellor, Extension, Engagement and Economic Development, North Carolina State University. Prior to joining NC State in 2008, she served in a variety of faculty and administrative positions including: associate dean of extension at the University of Tennessee (1995-1999); associate vice president and associate director of Outreach and Extension at the University of Missouri System (1999-2004); associate dean of Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; director of Virginia Cooperative Extension (2004-2005); and professor and coordinator of graduate study in Agriculture and Extension Education, Virginia Tech (2004-2007). Sobrero hosted the creation of the Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship (ACES) as it became a nonprofit organization (2009-2012).

In presenting the award, ACES president, Dr. Suzanne Morse Moomaw, said of Dr. Sobrero, "Dr. Pat Sobrero is an international leader and advocate for community engagement scholarship, a tested administrator, and a ray of hope. From this point forward, the award will be known as the Patricia M. Sobrero Community Change Award and will be given annually to individuals who exemplify the example set by Dr. Sobrero."

The mission of ACES is to provide expertise to policymakers, higher education institutions and organizations, community leaders, and national and international entities interested in addressing complex societal issues through the effective engagement of higher education with community members and organizations. Our work contributes to policy development, identification and dissemination of evidence-based practices, and advancing high impact community engagement scholarship.

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