

## **Department wins awards for performance audits**

The Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) received three awards in June 2011 recognizing the quality of work produced by its Performance Audit Operations Division. DOAA received all three awards presented annually by the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society: the Excellence in Evaluation Award, Excellence in Research Methods Award, and Recognition of Impact Award.

The Excellence in Evaluation Award is given to an office that demonstrated a positive impact on its state, produced a notable body of work over the previous four years, and furthered the field of legislation evaluation. To demonstrate the variety and quality of its work, DOAA submitted reports on specialty license plates, the state's sex offender registry, and schools that serve students with severe emotional disorders. This was the first time that DOAA has received the Excellence in Evaluation Award.

DOAA was one of two states to receive an Excellence in Research Methods Award, which recognizes the breadth, depth, and scope of fieldwork. The department report on Georgia's drug courts was recognized for methodologies that allowed for estimates of cost savings associated with drug court use, comparisons of recidivism rates for drug and traditional courts, and identification of defendants in traditional courts that could have been served by a drug court. DOAA was also a recipient of the methodology award in 2008.

The Recognition of Impact Award was given in recognition of the specialty license plate report's use during the 2010 legislative session. The report was used in formulating legislative changes to license plate charges and associated revenue distribution. Several states received impact awards in 2011, and DOAA has received the award for seven consecutive years.