



## JEFFREY SIEGEL PAST PRESIDENTS LEADERSHIP AWARD 2020

### Nomination of **BEN BOLUSKY**

Submitted March 20, 2020 by ASLA Florida Past Presidents E.J. Bolduc, David Drylie, and Jeff Caster with Members Stephen Pategas, David Crawley, and Rob Cotleur.

Hoping to keep memory of **Jeffery Siegel, FASLA** alive and to celebrate exceptional leadership, please accept this **nomination of Ben Bolusky for the 2020 ASLA/Florida Past Presidents Jeffrey Siegel Leadership Award**. Note: *The ASLA Florida Jeffrey Siegel Leadership Award can be awarded anytime at the will of the past presidents of the Chapter to any individual who exhibits exceptional leadership. Exceptional leadership is the only eligibility requirement or criteria for the selection.*

Through the past twenty-two years, one of the few constants in Florida's landscape professions and industries (including landscape architecture) is the capable and reliable leadership of Ben Bolusky, CEO/Executive Vice President of Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA). Ben arrived in Orlando at FNGLA with twelve years' experience directing government affairs at the American Nursery & Landscape Association. Ben is known for standing up to business and political rivals and standing up *for* his Members... *and* his volunteers, staff, and friends. Thanks in large part to Ben's leadership, this industry of very small and very big businesses has grown to be one of the state's largest.

Like Jeffrey, leadership for Ben begins with a smile, *always...* for everyone. He's known for being "*a steady and seasoned hand to Florida's landscape industry while always presenting a calm demeanor*" staying friendly, even in the middle of a disagreement. It makes him *exceptional*. It's an admirable quality. Those who follow Ben's lead are mostly happy and productive. One says, "*He's a joy to work with on many issues that challenge the industry.*" It's common to hear about one of the FNGLA staff celebrating their twenty-year anniversary working at FNGLA.

Naming the award for Jeffrey Siegel demonstrates the high standard and high honor of being selected for the award. To date, only three exceptional leaders have been selected for this prestigious award. Ben's record of leadership meets this high standard and will enhance the honor for future recipients.

Though tough enough to navigate legislative and regulatory affairs, Ben's tender nature is effective for developing strong partnerships between individuals and groups with divergent interests, *including ASLA FL*. It seems everyone knows Ben. Even when ASLA FL and FNGLA are not aligned, Members of both organizations benefit from Ben's leadership.

