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Contact:
Bill Owen, Principal & Chairman
407-843-5635, ext. 123 (o)
BOwen@ercinc.com

Principal of Real Estate Research Consultants Elected to AICP *College of Fellows*

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Real Estate research Consultants, Inc. (RERC) is pleased to announce that **Owen Beitsch, PhD**, one of the firm's principals, was recently elected to the *College of Fellows* by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a professional planner. He joins about 375 other individuals nationwide who have been elected to the College since it was founded. He is one of only three individuals recognized in Florida during the current year for his accomplishments in professional practice.

Members of the American Planning Association who earn the AICP designation demonstrate through practice, technical knowledge, educational specialization, and testing that they have mastered skills and competencies particular to the profession. The *College of Fellows* is a singular honor awarded by peer review to those within AICP who have made outstanding contributions in the planning field. Dr. Beitsch has been a member of AICP since 1993. With more planners in Florida than any state other than California, Beitsch's election as a Fellow is all the more noteworthy.

Since joining RERC, Dr. Beitsch has participated in dozens of complex planning assignments involving both public and private interests. His current work involves a series of financial studies involving \$500 million worth of real estate investments in Florida, Kansas, and Nevada. Along with Tom Kohler, he leads RERC's work with special districts, their needs, and their accountability.

Beitsch is a graduate of Florida, Florida State, and the University of Central Florida where he earned his PhD. He maintains his relationship at UCF through the College of Health and Public Affairs where he is adjunct faculty and a research associate. He currently serves on the Planning Advisory Board at UCF which is seeking to launch a planning degree this fall.

"Owen Beitsch is a well known and respected member of the planning community. He has been a part of our corporate team for a long time, and we are proud that his association and work have been recognized by other planners at the national level. His focus on the various financial aspects of development has alerted planners to the importance of economic performance in achieving quality within the built environment" said RERC Chairman Bill Owen, who founded Orlando-based RERC where Owen Beitsch has been a partner since 1991. "I have known Owen for more than twenty-five years, and he richly deserves this award based on his interest and work".

As well as being a newly elected Fellow, Dr. Beitsch is a member of the Counselors of Real Estate which confers its own designation, the CRE. He received that award in 1993. The CRE designation is also a peer rewarded honor recognizing professional contributions.

Based in downtown Orlando and serving clients throughout the state of Florida and the United States, RERC is regarded as one of the most respected strategic advisory firms in the southeast, especially in the areas of downtown redevelopment, economic development and community building. RERC has provided more than 23 years of consulting excellence on some of Central Florida's most innovative and iconic developments. The reputation of the company and staff has become synonymous with creativity, credibility, honesty and integrity in the Florida real-estate and planning communities. For more information regarding RERC and its staff, visit www.RERCInc.com.

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