

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Edge joins leaders in county government for intensive leadership program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Cumberland County Commissioner Kenneth Edge was one of a select group of 19 elected county leaders from across the U.S. to participate in 8th Annual County Leadership Institute (CLI), a rigorous program developed by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Cambridge Leadership Associates.

The five-day Institute, held June 5-9 in Washington, D.C., challenged the county officials to consider innovative approaches to address key issues facing their home county and residents.

Participants worked with the faculty as a group to develop a sense of direction and vision; a mechanism for innovation and creativity; a resource for invigorating organizational culture; and increased risk taking, improved decision making, team building and effective communication.

“These sessions were unlike any I have ever experienced,” said Edge, President-elect of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. “The Institute provided a unique opportunity to learn from the experience and insights of experts in leadership development and to work with my colleagues from across the country on specific approaches to address the challenges that all counties share.”

Edge said, “I believe strongly that county government officials, through the power, influence and support of state associations of counties and the National Association of Counties, must be proactive and engage our state and federal representatives so they understand how their legislative and funding decisions affect us at home.”

CLI curriculum was developed by Marty Linsky, co-founder of Cambridge Leadership Associates and faculty at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, in collaboration with Dr. Ellen Schall, Dean, Robert F. Wagner School of public policy at the New York University specifically for NACo.

“The county officials who participate in the institute get information, ideas, and perspectives they can’t get anywhere else,” said Larry E. Naake, executive director of NACo. “These county leaders not only discussed the core principles of public service leadership with faculty, they also collaborated intensively with each other to develop new ways to attack real-life issues of importance to the residents of their counties.”

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.