

PRESS RELEASE



VACo Recognizes Graduate of Supervisor Certification Program

Virginia Cooperative Extension

A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University

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RICHMOND (Nov. 11, 2012)—The Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) recognized the seventh class of County Supervisor Certification Program graduates on Nov. 11 during the VACo Annual Conference in Bath County.

The County Supervisor Certification Program is a partnership between Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech and VACo that provides training to enhance the leadership and decision-making skills of county supervisors in the Commonwealth.

This year's graduate of the 18-month certification program is:

Joseph C. Straten
Chairman
Washington County

The County Supervisor Certification Program was created in response to VACo members requesting more in-depth knowledge about government operations.

“I congratulate Joseph Straten on completing this challenging and fulfilling certification program,” said James D. Campbell, executive director of VACo. “The program continues to grow—more than 20 supervisors signed up for our latest class offering. We believe this program is a way to acknowledge our members who seek additional training and improvement of their abilities to better serve their constituents.”

Virginia Cooperative Extension partners with VACo to develop and deliver the program. “This program is a great example of Virginia Cooperative Extension growing its partnership with an organization to strengthen the impact of our community viability efforts and to collaborate with other agencies to provide leadership education,” said Michael Chandler, Professor Emeritus at the Virginia Tech.

The County Supervisor Certification Program provides an overview of the basic issues, expectations, and practices associated with serving as a county supervisor as well as detailed information about local government. Each participant completes five core courses featuring

both classroom instruction and self-directed learning on leadership development, duties and responsibilities of public officials, community planning, local government finance, and collaborative governance. Participants also select three elective courses on topics such as conflict resolution and dispute management, team building, technology in local government, decision-making, and intergovernmental relations.

For more information about the County Supervisor Certification Program, contact [James Campbell](#), executive director, at jcampbell@vaco.org or 804-343-2500.

PHOTO ATTACHED:

[Supervisor Certification Past Graduates](#)

- **[2011](#)**
Larry K. Bartlett, Grayson County; **David W. Blanchard**, Highland County; **Brenda Sutherland**, Grayson County

- **[2010](#)**
Stephen W. Bowen, Nottoway County; **J.D. Cave**, Page County; **Donald W. Kidd**, Amherst County; **Dr. Thomas Littrell**, Carroll County; **Ernie McLeod**, Louisa County

- **[2009](#)**
Deborah B. Coats, Hanover County; **Robert H. Conner**, Brunswick County; **Willie L. Gentry, Jr.**, Louisa County; **Bernard L. Jones, Sr.**, Brunswick County; **Ann H. Mallek**, Albemarle County; **Carl Schmitt**, Greene County

- **[2008](#)**
Sharon Baroncelli, Shenandoah County; **Kate Berger**, Pittsylvania County; **Tony Carter**, Warren County; **David Hutchins**, Carroll County; **Paul Milde**, Stafford County

- **[2007](#)**
John Rust, Page County; **William Quarles, Jr.**, Goochland County; **Charles Allbaugh**, Fluvanna County

- **[2006](#)**
Wayne A. Acors, Caroline County; **Charles C. Ballard**, Page County; **Phillip A. Bradshaw**, Isle of Wight County; **Gerald M. Cabbage**, Page County; **Carol Lee Fischer-Strickler**, Page County; **Thomas W. Fore**, Amherst County; **R. Kenneth Hatcher**, Powhatan County; **Judy S. Lyttle**, Surry County; **Ronnie L. Shortt**, Wise County; **Thomas J. Wright, III**, Isle of Wight County

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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