



News Release

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Fairfield, Franklin and Hamilton Counties Receive National Award for High-Performance Leadership Training

COLUMBUS – The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) and The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented the inaugural Award of Excellence for High-Performance Leadership to Fairfield, Franklin and Hamilton counties for their commitment to strengthening the leadership skills of elected officials and the county workforce through the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy. The award was presented to county leaders at a ceremony in Columbus.

Seventy Fairfield County participants and 41 Hamilton County participants successfully completed NACo's High Performance Leadership Academy, a 12-week, online program that equips public servants with practical leadership skills to achieve results for county residents. Franklin County Administrator Kenneth Wilson is featured as an instructor in the academy.

Fairfield County Commissioner Dave Levacy said, "It is our job as leaders to improve our skills with positive leadership – to work hard to build trust and show we truly care – to behave in selfless ways. Making sure we have high-performance leadership training opportunities for our team is one way we are showing we care."

"It's an honor to be recognized for Franklin County's strong leadership that not only effectively supports residents but shares that wisdom for tomorrow's leaders throughout the country," said Franklin County Board President, Kevin L. Boyce. "While we face unprecedented challenges and decisions every day, the back-bone of good government is strengthened by sharing best practices and standards to ensure our next generation of county workforce is fully prepared to take on the future. My colleagues and I are proud to serve as positive examples in county leadership."

"NACo gave us the tools to invest in the next generation of county leaders at a critical time for local governments throughout our country," said Jeffrey Aluotto, Hamilton County administrator. "Developing these crucial management skills in the ranks of our emerging leaders has a tremendous and long-lasting effect on empowering our entire workforce."

“I admire Fairfield, Franklin and Hamilton counties’ decision to commit leaders to the program in an effort to address succession planning needs, professional growth and workforce development,” said CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler. “Without their work, those vital components to a successful future would be a distant afterthought, and leadership readiness to address our next-level challenges would not be ready at all. At CCAO, we believe in leadership development to build even stronger leaders for stronger counties for a stronger Ohio.”

“We applaud these county leaders for their commitment to sharpening leadership skills that help build healthy, safe and vibrant counties,” said NACo Chief Public Affairs Officer Brian Namey. “By strengthening the skills necessary to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities, Hamilton County officials are building a brighter future for county residents.”

Professional Development Academy CEO Tim Rahschulte said, “Fairfield, Franklin and Hamilton counties have enrolled over 100 existing and emerging leaders. We commend them for strengthening personnel management and training.”

The High Performance Leadership Academy focuses on five essential skills: leading, organizing, collaborating, communicating and delivering. It emphasizes real-time instruction, small-group learning and knowledge exchanges.

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