



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Johnnie Wright Sr., President
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thirty-One COUNTY OFFICIALS GRADUATE FROM THE INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

Thirty-one county officials graduated on August 3 from Levels I and II of the Institute of Government for County Officials at SCAC's 53rd Annual Conference, held August 1 – 3.

"It is an honor for me to recognize members of the class of 2020," said 2019-20 SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (Clarendon County Council Chairman) when recognizing graduates at the conference's general session on August 3. "Your commitment to county government is admirable, and your success is well-deserved. Congratulations!"

LEVEL I

Graduating from Level I were: AIKEN COUNTY—**Brian Sanders**, Deputy County Administrator; **Cynthia Holland**, Registration & Elections Executive Director; BAMBERG COUNTY—**Sharon Hammond**, Council Chairman; BEAUFORT COUNTY—**Joseph Passiment**, Council Chairman; CALHOUN COUNTY—**Denise M. Christmas**, Deputy Administrator/CFO; CHARLESTON COUNTY—**Kristen Hess**, Deputy Clerk to Council; **Kristen L. Salisbury**, Clerk to Council; CHEROKEE COUNTY—**Stephen L. Bratton**, County Administrator; EDGEFIELD COUNTY—**Scott Cooper**, Council Chairman; FAIRFIELD COUNTY—**Moses W. Bell** and **Clarence Gilbert**, Council Members; GREENVILLE COUNTY—**Jessica Stone**, Deputy Clerk to Council; GREENWOOD COUNTY—**Melissa Spencer**, Council Member; **Susan L. McIntyre**, Clerk to Council; HAMPTON COUNTY—**Ronald G. Winn**, Council Member; LANCASTER COUNTY—**Allen Blackmon** and **Terry Graham**, Council Members; LEE COUNTY—**Johnette M. Caughman**, Council Member; OCONEE COUNTY—**David A. Root**, County Attorney; PICKENS COUNTY—**Michael Hayes**, Risk Manager; SPARTANBURG COUNTY—**Jack A. Mabry**, Council Member; SUMTER COUNTY—**Christopher F. Sumpter II**, Council Member; and YORK COUNTY—**Robert Winkler**, Council Member.

LEVEL II

Graduating from Level II were: AIKEN COUNTY—**Brian Sanders**, Deputy County Administrator; CHESTERFIELD COUNTY—**C. Heath Ruffner**, County Attorney; EDGEFIELD COUNTY—**Scott Cooper**, Council Chairman; FAIRFIELD COUNTY—**Patti L. Davis**, Clerk to Council; **Cornelius Robinson**, Council Chairman; HAMPTON COUNTY—**Jennifer G. Youmans**, Treasurer; LANCASTER COUNTY—**Terry Graham**, Council Member; and OCONEE COUNTY—**James G. Hart**, Council Member.

The Institute of Government for County Officials provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively. SCAC partners with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, to offer the Institute of Government three times per year. Clemson University's Master of Public Administration program sponsors the Institute.

County officials must complete 27 hours of instruction to graduate from Level I, and 18 hours of instruction to graduate from Level II.

SCAC, chartered on June 22, 1967, is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization whose membership includes all 46 counties in South Carolina. Governed by a 29-member board of directors elected each year by county officials at the Association's annual conference, SCAC is the only organization representing county governments in the state.

The Association provides a number of services, programs and activities to county governments and their officials, including: research and technical assistance; education and training; legal assistance; policy development, advocacy and legislative information; publications, including a magazine and newsletter; meetings and conferences; public information, including an annual directory and website; and financial services, including the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust.

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