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NACo Launches Student Art Competition for National Government Week

Whether it's nursing the sick at county hospitals, building bridges, facilitating pet adoptions or lending books, counties' responsibilities are an integral part of the fabric of our communities nationwide.



As part of National Association of Counties (NACo) President Gary Moore's LEAD initiative, NACo and its members are building on the core themes

of Leadership, Education, Action and Development. NACo is magnifying educational programs that help enrich the public's understanding of county government.

NACo is spreading the word about how counties operate to children and young adults across the country by inviting them to create artwork for a 2021-2022 "Counties Matter" calendar to celebrate April as National County Government Month.

The goal is to start a dialogue with students to help them learn about county responsibilities and leadership. Students are invited to complete the sentence "I love my county because..." with an accompanying creative work of art depicting an aspect of what counties accomplish in their community.

NACo members have access to an online toolkit at naco.org/art that will include artwork ideas, social media posts, a customizable press release and more so you can share information about the art competition with schools and communities.

Winning artwork, 18 entries in all, will be selected and featured in a glossy 18-month NACo calendar, to be distributed to NACo members nationwide. Winners will also be announced in *County News* and students' artwork may be featured at NACo events and at NACo headquarters in Washington, D.C. Winning students will receive pizza parties for their class from the calendar sponsor.

Before submitting any artwork for consideration, students

must make sure that they are eligible and able to adhere to all of the competition guidelines.

Eligibility:

- Only students living in the United States, who are 18 years of age and younger in grades 1 through 12 during the 2020–2021 academic year are eligible.
- Each submission must be original artwork created in the current school year by one student.

Artwork guidelines:

- Submitted artwork must present a county activity that shows how "Counties Matter" and inspired by the sentence "I love my county because ..."
- The artwork must reflect some aspect of a county government function, service or program, to celebrate National County Government Month.
- The artwork must be horizontal 11" x 8.5" (PDF or JPEG).

(Continued on next page)

**COUNTIES
MATTER**



Learn more [NACo.org/ncgm](https://naco.org/ncgm)

#NCGM





The most important elements of the artwork must not extend beyond 10.5" X 8" to account for trimming during the calendar production process.

Judging criteria:

- Technical skill: The artwork must display artistic skill in painting, drawing or digital art.
- Creativity: The artwork must be original in its expression of a personal vision or voice. It must be the student's own work and cannot be plagiarized or in violation of any copyright.
- Artist's statement: Along with the artwork, each student is required to submit a statement that explains how "Counties Matter" in their community or complete the sentence "I love my county because..."
- Each entry must include the artist's name, grade, school, county and contact information for the student, a parent or guardian (email address and phone number) and a teacher (email address and phone number).

Deadline and submission requirements:

- The competition submission period closes May 31, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET.
- Students must submit their artwork for consideration via NACo.org/ngcm.
- The artwork must be submitted as a PDF or JPEG. (Winners will be notified and asked to mail their original artwork to NACo.)

- The artist's statement including name, age, grade level, school, teacher or art teacher and contact information for a guardian or teacher must be submitted as a .doc or .docx file.
- For digital art or graphic design submissions, the design must be 300 dpi and RGB color.
- Only one submission per student is allowed.
- There is no entry fee.

For more information, visit naco.org/art.



NACo and SCAC to Distribute U.S. Flag Retirement Boxes to South Carolina Counties

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC), flag retirement boxes will be distributed at no cost to all 46 counties in South Carolina by April 30. More information will be provided soon about this national flag retirement box distribution program.

"I believe it's respectful to retire a U.S. Flag in a dignified manner when it becomes faded and worn, and thus unserviceable," said SCAC President Johnnie Wright Sr. (Orangeburg County Council Chairman). "We here at the SCAC are very honored to have been asked to partner with NACo on this most patriotic U.S. Flag Retirement Program."

The United States Flag Code prescribes flag etiquette—everything from flying it near other flags to instructions on how to raise and lower it.

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning," says the code.

Flags should be folded respectfully before being placed in the box. Members of the Boy Scouts, VFW or whoever oversees burning the flags will be responsible for the proper disposal of the worn flags.



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Don't Forget the Schedule for SCAC's 2021 Annual Awards Program!

SCAC recently announced the schedule for its 2021 Annual Awards Program and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase. Building on the success of the 2020 Awards Program and Showcase, the Association will again host the Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase at the SC ETV Studios in Columbia.

The showcase entrants will be recognized and the award winners will be announced during the Association's Annual Conference in Hilton Head. Below is the schedule of events, which is different from previous years. More specific dates will be announced soon.

Apr. 30, 2021

All award and showcase entries due.

June 8, 2021

Awards competition and showcase to be held at SCETV.

Aug. 1 – 3, 2021

Award winners to be announced and showcase entrants to be recognized at SCAC Annual Conference

The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase will be offered again for counties to share ways they have enhanced services and programs or learned from their response to the health crisis. Counties that entered last year's showcase that would like to enter again are asked to focus on additional enhancements or changes that were not included in the 2020 Showcase.

For nearly 50 years, the Association has recognized innovative projects completed by South Carolina's counties. The awards program accepts applications that address all areas of county government—from simple, unique ideas that maximize limited resources

to major collaborative efforts that tackle complex issues.

To view videos and applications from previous winners and to learn more about the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award and the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, visit the Association's website at SCCounties.org. If you have additional questions, please contact Susan Turkopuls at 1-800-922-6081 or sturkopuls@scac.sc.



SCAC's Digital Communications:

Are You in the Know on the S.C. General Assembly's Actions and Association Events?

SCAC is now distributing *Friday Reports*, *Legislative Alerts*, and conference registration information digitally through social media, Constant Contact emails, and on its website. Paper copies will no longer be mailed. As local leaders, SCAC wants to make sure all county officials and staff members continue to receive critical legislative and conference information. If you have not been receiving the *Friday Report* e-mails, please contact Jennifer Haworth, SCAC Member Services Coordinator, at jhaworth@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

Follow SCAC on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to learn what's happening at the State house and how SCAC's programs, services, and conferences can benefit your county. Find us at [SCCounties](https://www.facebook.com/SCCounties) on Facebook and Twitter, and South Carolina Association of Counties on LinkedIn. Help us amplify your county's good news by tagging SCAC in your posts and/or using the [#SCCounties](https://twitter.com/SCCounties), [#LocalLeaders](https://twitter.com/LocalLeaders), and [#StatewideStrength](https://twitter.com/StatewideStrength) hashtags.





CARES Act Expands Broadband Availability and Access Across South Carolina

By Landon Masters
Community Outreach & Communications Manager
S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff

In 2020, the S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) successfully completed the administration of \$50 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security or “CARES Act” funds to help expand broadband access in South Carolina during COVID-19.

Funding was used for three major broadband expansion programs and initiatives. To facilitate distance learning, the Online Learning Initiative procured more than 100,000 mobile hotspots and wired internet service for qualifying student households in school districts and institutions of higher learning statewide. In addition, the ORS launched the state’s Broadband Map in December 2020. The mapping project provides an ac-

cessible platform for the public to see where broadband is—and is not—available in South Carolina.

The Broadband Infrastructure Program helped to expand broadband access to almost 20,000 structures in the state. Fourteen companies completed infrastructure projects providing broadband access to homes, businesses, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities in South Carolina. The ORS funded approximately 78 applications for projects in 27 counties.

The ORS is currently working in coordination with the South Carolina Department of Commerce to develop and implement \$30 million in a Rural Broadband Grant Program to expand broadband availability and access in South Carolina. More information on broadband initiatives can be found at ORS.SC.GOV/broadband.



SCAC Now Offers Orientation for Newly Elected County Officials Webinars Online!

SCAC now offers Orientation for Newly Elected County Officials webinars online! Both part one and part two have been combined into a single course on SCAC’s Learning Portal.

County officials can take this online course to learn important information on topics such as the structure of county government, the roles and responsibilities of county council, and the various services and programs SCAC offers among many other topics.

Upon completion, participants will receive credit in the Institute of Government for County Officials for both Orientation to County Government I and Orientation to County Government II, which are Level I required courses.

This is a great opportunity for county officials to begin earning credit towards a Level I certificate.

In order to access the course on SCAC’s Learning Portal, officials will need to first have an account with SCAC. For assistance, please contact Ryan Tooley, SCAC, at rtooley@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

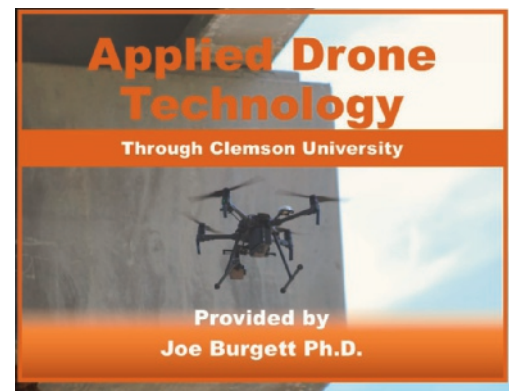


Clemson University Offers Online Drone Course for Professionals

Many local agencies and government offices are looking to take advantage of drone technology but struggle with where to start.

Barriers like the required FAA license, lack of flight skills, or knowing the airspace keep many organizations from taking advantage of this powerful tool. These barriers led Dr. Joe Burgett, of Clemson University, to develop the Applied Drone Technology course for professionals. This non-credit course offered through the University provides a comprehensive curriculum to safely use drones, legally and effectively.

This five-module course teaches fundamental commercial drone operations and software applications. The key learning objectives include, 1) passing the FAA Part 107 exam, 2) learning to create 3-D models from drone data, 3) a wide range of





practical skillsets such as filing FAA waivers, requesting ATC authorization, and programming autonomous missions, and 4) flight skills. The 3-D models and maps will be created using ContextCapture, one of the industry's leading SfM software packages. The course uses a cutting-edge flight simulation program to teach flight skills. Access to ContextCapture and the flight simulator are included with the course.

The course has a self-paced and instructor-led offering. The self-paced offering contains a comprehensive library of videos, voiceover PowerPoints, and written e-material. Students complete the course at their own speed over a 10-week period. The instructor-led offering provides a more structured approach with weekly online classes led by Dr. Burgett. This offering allows an accelerated five-week course delivery.

For more information, visit the course website at www.clemsondrone.com or the course overview video at https://ensemble.clemson.edu/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/Applied_Drone_Technology/view. You can also contact Dr. Joe Burgett at jmburg@clemson.edu with any questions.



SCAC's Virtual Legislative Update to be Held March 19

Mark your calendar to join SCAC's lobbying team for a virtual legislative update at 9 a.m. Friday, March 19. In addition to hearing the latest news about the state budget, you'll also be briefed on other important legislation that affects county government. Registration information, which has already been emailed to all county officials, is posted on SCAC's website at SCCounties.org. For more information, please call SCAC staff at (803) 252-7255 or toll-free at (800) 922-6081, or e-mail scac@scac.sc.



SC RFA Releases CPI to Calculate FY2021-22 Millage Rate Limitations

The S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) has released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that will be used to calculate FY2021-22 millage rate limitations. Please see RFA's memo on SCAC's website at https://www.sccounties.org/sites/default/files/uploads/News/fy_21-22_inflation_component_memo.pdf.

The CPI increase from calendar year 2019 to 2020 was 1.23 percent. Each county's millage rate limitation for FY2021-22 will be based upon 1.23 percent plus any increase in population.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to release July 1, 2020 county population estimates on May 4, 2021. This means counties

will likely receive millage cap information by the first week of May, approximately a month later than usual.

SCAC staff will forward the information to counties as soon as it is available. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Katherine Miller with the RFA at MaryKatherine.Miller@rfa.sc.gov or (803) 734-3322.



SCAC/NACo Partnership Offers New Online Leadership Academy

SCAC recently announced a new partnership with NACo to build strong county leaders. The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program that empowers county government professionals with the leadership skills to deliver results for counties.



The NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy is similarly structured and geared for county employees dedicated to cybersecurity, IT, and risk management. Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, South Carolina counties are eligible for a registration fee of \$1,545 (instead of the \$2,495 retail price).

For more information about High Performance Leadership Academy, visit: <https://www.naco.org/resources/education-and-training/naco-high-performance-leadership-academy>.



NACo and SCAC Now Offer New Cybersecurity Resources Online

NACo's Cybersecurity Leadership Academy is offering online cyber simulations free of charge to all NACo member counties. These simulations are designed for cybersecurity managers, their teams, and others in the county responsible for risk defense, protection, and re-

(Continued on next page)





covery (including managers in HR, policy management, finance, public safety, and emergency services).

There are four week-long simulations designed to take approximately 45 to 90 minutes per day for one week. Activities can be completed on the participant's schedule. To learn more about these simulations, visit <https://www.naco.org/naco-cyber-attack-simulation>. Please contact Rita Reynolds, NACo Chief Information Officer, at rreynolds@naco.org for additional information.

SCAC recently partnered with Willis Towers Watson Insurance Company to offer a free cybersecurity webinar for South Carolina counties. This webinar is available at <https://twmeet.ingcenter.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/twmeetingcenter/re>

[cording/23b47f4627c24d4d9e940552524664ba/playback](https://www.sccounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars). To access SCAC's Cybersecurity Strategies for County Government webinar the Association hosted in 2018, visit SCAC's online educational library at <https://www.sccounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars>. These webinars provide an overview of cybersecurity issues and serve as a good starting point for those seeking to gain greater understanding of this emerging threat.

SCAC is committed to providing cybersecurity resources to counties. For more information, please contact: John Henderson, SCAC Director of Insurance Services, at jhenderson@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255, ext. 327.



Webcasts and Webinars



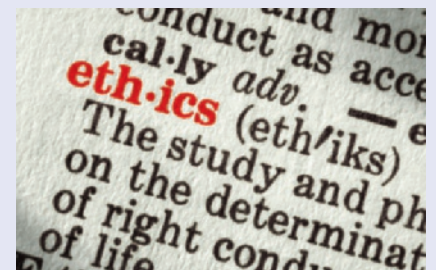
NEW!

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For assistance, please contact Ryan Tooley at rtooley@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

Did You Know?

South Carolina
State Ethics Commission:



Did you know that your 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) is due soon?

You must file your SEI, disclosing sources of income to your household during the 2020 calendar year, by March 30, 2021. You must file this form electronically at ethics.sc.gov.

For assistance, please call the S.C. Ethics Commission at (803) 253-4192.

S.C. State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Dr., Suite 150
Columbia, S.C. 29210
Office: (803) 253-4192
Fax: (803) 253-7539

SCAC's 2021 Conference Calendar

July 30 – Aug. 1
Aug. 1 – 3

Institute of Government for County Officials
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

You can register and pay online for SCAC conferences at www.sccounties.org/meetings.



NACo's 2021 Conference Calendar

Annual Conference
Details to be announced soon.