



# News Release

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For Immediate Release

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## **Local officials complete Virginia Certified County Supervisor Program**

**RICHMOND—(Nov. 16, 2011)** The Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) recognized the sixth class of County Supervisor Certification Program graduates 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.

Graduates of the 18-month certification program:

- **Larry K. Bartlett, Grayson County**
- **David W. Blanchard, Highland County**
- **Brenda Sutherland, Grayson County**

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

“The membership of the association enjoyed the educational programs we provided and wanted advanced training,” said James D. Campbell, executive director of VACo. “This certification program is a way to acknowledge those members who seek additional training and recognize those who enhance their ability to better serve constituents.”

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](mailto:jcampbell@vaco.org) or (804) 343-2500.

**PHOTO ATTACHED** (left to right)— Ed Jones, director, Virginia Cooperative Extension; Brenda Sutherland, Grayson County; David W. Blanchard, Highland County; Larry K. Bartlett, Grayson County; and Martha Walker, community viability specialist, Virginia Cooperative Extension.

**NOTE:** Photos of each individual supervisor receiving a certificate is also available.

*VACo supports county officials and represents, promotes, and protects the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.*

*Virginia Cooperative Extension brings the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth. Through a system of on-campus specialists and locally based agents, it delivers education in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, community viability, and 4-H youth development. With a network of faculty at two universities, 107 county and city offices, 13 agricultural research and extension centers, and six 4-H educational centers, Virginia Cooperative Extension provides solutions to the problems facing Virginians today.*

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