



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Todd McGee (919) 715-7336**  
[todd.mcgee@ncacc.org](mailto:todd.mcgee@ncacc.org)

## **Union County Commissioner achieves recognition from NCACC for dedication to professional development**

Union County Commissioner Jerry Simpson was recognized by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners for meeting the requirements for the Practitioner level in the Local Elected Leaders Academy. A Practitioner has completed a minimum of 48 credits (18 orientation credits + 18 focused in-depth credits + 12 elective credits).

The Local Elected Leaders Academy, a partnership with the UNC School of Government, the N.C. Association of County Commissioners and the N.C. League of Municipalities, offers local elected officials the knowledge and skills needed to lead and govern their communities.

County commissioners are recognized for their participation in both educational programs and service to the Association. The starting place for earning credits is the orientation program, the Essentials of County Government. As commissioners increase education and service, they earn credits toward recognition at three levels: Practitioner, Master and Mentor. The NCACC tracks credits and recognizes participation every year at the Annual Conference.

“LELA recognizes county commissioners who have dedicated themselves to becoming effective local leaders for their communities,” said NCACC Executive Director Kevin Leonard. “The roles and responsibilities of county commissioners are constantly changing, and the LELA program helps them keep up with the latest information.”

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*NCACC Mission Statement: Our Association supports and promotes the well-being of all North Carolina counties through advocacy, education, research and member services.*