

Gilchrist County Commissioner Ronald Smith Achieves the Advanced County Commissioner Level I Designation

Smith completes Advanced County Commissioner Program enhancing their leadership abilities

ORANGE COUNTY, Fla. -- Gilchrist County Commissioner Ronald Smith was presented with the Advanced County Commissioner Level I (ACC I) designation from the Institute for County Government (ICG) at an award ceremony held at the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Annual Conference and Educational Exposition in Orange County, Florida.

The ACC I designation is the first level of leadership achievement in the Advanced County Commissioner Program offered by ICG and signifies the completion of 27 hours of coursework.

ACC I is a voluntary program designed to provide county commissioners with resources to enhance their ability to serve their local communities. The program consists of core education courses, such as growth management, financial management, and ethics, as well as elective courses such as affordable housing, emergency management, and resiliency.

“Commissioners pursuing this designation are committed to bettering their service for their communities,” said Eric Poole, the Executive Director of the Institute for County Government. “This program unites commissioners who are wholeheartedly devoted to tackling Florida's most significant challenges, fostering collaboration and personal growth.”

The ACC I education program was launched in 2006 and commissioners must fully commit to the coursework to graduate from the program. Participants are challenged to act, think and lead during times of uncertainty and adversity. Alongside Commissioner Smith, eight commissioners earned the ACC I designation at the award ceremony and a total of 294 commissioners have earned the designation since the inception of the program.

ACC I is made possible through a continuing partnership with the University of Florida/IFAS Extension, located in all 67 counties in the State of Florida.

To learn more about ICG and the ACC I designation, please visit flicg.org.

Founded in 1929, the Florida Association of Counties has represented the diverse interests of Florida's counties, emphasizing the importance of protecting home rule – the concept that communities and their local leaders should make the decisions that impact their community. The Florida Association of Counties helps Florida's counties effectively serve and represent their communities through Advocacy, Collaboration, and Education.