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Advancing Georgia's Counties.

## NEWS RELEASE

### STEWART COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIMMY LEE RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR ACCG LIFELONG LEARNING ACADEMY



**ATLANTA, Ga.** (November 3, 2014) – ACCG, Georgia’s county association, and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia recently recognized county officials throughout the state with certificates for their completion of the core certification level in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy. Jimmy Lee received a certificate for completing core requirements and becoming a certified county commissioner. Training certificates were awarded at the 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference at the Classic Center in Athens-Clarke County.

“ACCG is pleased to witness the increased participation in our leadership and training programs as these programs allow Georgia’s county officials to recognize and realize the importance of continuing education,” said ACCG Executive Director Ross King. “Our partnership with the Vinson Institute provides us with

the expertise needed to construct a curriculum that meets the needs of ‘today’s’ county official while equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate their public service career.”

Course offerings in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy began in 2013. The Lifelong Learning Academy allows commissioners to receive a specialty certification after they complete core requirements. In addition, they have the opportunity to attend continuing education sessions at various ACCG conferences and meetings. Since its inception, the program has been redesigned to continue to offer county commissioners exceptional learning experiences.

ACCG and the Vinson Institute have worked in partnership to provide leadership development and training certification programs for county commissioners and county staff for more than two decades. These training programs are voluntary, but encourage lifelong learning and offer educational opportunities that further develop an understanding of county governance and keep county officials updated on current trends and management practices. Education and training opportunities are afforded at all ACCG conferences and events. Training opportunities range from the typical classroom setting to speeches and updates from state officials and industry experts. Over 2,600 county officials have received certification from these programs.

ACCG is Georgia’s county association and works on behalf of county officials and their communities by providing public policy and legislative advocacy, leadership development, civic and community engagement initiatives, insurance and retirement programs that specialize in local government needs and other cost-saving programs. Formed in 1914 when county officials came together to help fund the state’s first highway department, ACCG today serves as a catalyst for advancing Georgia’s counties. For more information, go to [www.accg.org](http://www.accg.org).