

## 2018 NACO Institute of Excellence Begins Soon – Enroll Today!

Much of the time serving as an elected official and leading county government is typical of a managerial position in the business world. Officials make decisions and manage the work to best serve their constituencies. Every so often, though, issues pop up that test the abilities of even the most seasoned officials. Quickly the role of being a manager shifts to the role of being a leader. To switch roles effectively one has to understand the difference in skills and qualities required.

The *NACO Institute of Excellence* is a yearlong professional development program for county officials. Enrollment is now open for the 2018 Institute beginning in March. Several areas of personal leadership development will be presented including one's:

- Personality preferences and leadership behaviors
- Leadership mission
- Active listening skills

Further into the year participants will learn skills for

- Managing conflicts
- Leading meetings
- Corresponding with legislators

Topics about influencing others and innovative thinking will move officials to lead at a higher level.

Institute sessions will be presented in Lincoln at the University of Nebraska Extension Office in Lancaster County on the first Thursdays in March, May, July and September. The sessions will be offered again on the second Thursdays of those months in North Platte at the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center. Additionally, this year Institute sessions will be presented on Saturdays in March (10), May (12), July (14), and September (22). All sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. and will end by 3:30 p.m. A final session will be held in December where everyone comes together in to apply what they've learned.

Participants can attend in either Lincoln or North Platte – you can decide on which location fits into your schedule best. For more details refer to the NACO website for meeting locations and the program schedule. To receive a Certificate of Achievement at the 2018 Annual NACO Conference next December, participants in the Institute must attend at least 4 of the 5 face-to-face trainings.

The registration fee for participating in the program is \$250 per official. NACO will bill the counties for the registration fees after the Institute starts. Click on the online registration to link to enroll <https://go.unl.edu/ka7k> by Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Counties will be billed after the March session.

Soon after the deadline, enrollees in the 2018 Institute of Excellence will receive additional information about the program from Nebraska Extension Educators, [Carroll Welte](#) and [Jessica Jones](#). Their contact information follows:

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To become better at shifting between manager and leader, enroll today in the NACO Institute of Excellence. According to one graduate, "...incremental change can result in big rewards."