

April 4, 2011

### **CATAWBA COUNTY P.I.O. RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD**

At the spring North Carolina City & County Communicators (NC3C) Conference, held March 30-April 1, in Fayetteville, NC, Dave Hardin, Public Information Officer for Catawba County, received the prestigious Chris Coulson Memorial Award.

According to Mandy Pitts, NC3C 2011-2012 President and City of Hickory Communications Director, who nominated Hardin for the award, "This prestigious award is presented to a person who demonstrates a passion for making a difference in the profession and in the lives of citizens and whose character, career and service represents the highest standards and who excels in the practice of local government communications. Dave truly believes that citizens need to be given information about their local government in as many different venues as possible."



During the award ceremony, Hardin was recognized for several accomplishments including his work in developing a highly successful electronic Catawba County Newsletter called "E News" which is in its fifth year of publication, and for Catawba County University, a course designed for citizens that focuses on the basics of Catawba County management and budget, public safety, human services, green initiatives, technology, and subjects chosen by the participants.

"Winning the Coulson Award is very humbling, but I also look upon it as the highest honor I have ever been given for two reasons," Hardin said. "First, because it comes from NC3C, which has fast become a very effective and well respected association just for local government communications professionals. NC3C is made up of some of the finest public information and public relations professionals in the nation, and I greatly appreciate this recognition from them.

Further, I accept this award on behalf of Catawba County Government and feel the Board of Commissioners and all of the County's staff share in this award," Hardin added. "We have outstanding leadership from the Board and our management team, and their vision is carried out daily in the best manner possible by our staff. Their outstanding service makes it easy for me to do my work. I'm most proud to win this award on behalf of Catawba County."

"Dave has been the heartbeat of several innovative initiatives to inform the public of County services," said Kitty Barnes, Chair of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, which recognized Hardin's honor at its April 4th meeting. "Dave is so deserving of this award and we are very proud of him."

The North Carolina City & County Communicators is dedicated to the professional development and networking of local governmental communications professionals. Formed in March 2007 by 27 professional communicators, it has since grown to more 60 members across the state.