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CATAWBA COUNTY ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER
EARNS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Catawba County Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris has earned the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) Credentialed Manager designation. Established in 2002, the ICMA Credentialed Manager program recognizes professional government managers whom the ICMA certifies as having a "commitment to continuous learning and professional development".

To be credentialed by ICMA, an association member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, have earned a degree in public administration or a related field, and have demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

"Part of our commitment as professional managers and members of ICMA is that we will spend at least 40 hours a year in ongoing professional development," said Tom Lundy, Catawba County Manager. "We all have training and experience, but we all also have more we can learn. The Credentialing Program helps management professionals focus on personal goals and areas where they want to enhance their skills. It could be in leadership, advocacy, strategic planning or communications, for example. The Credentialing Program is a voluntary step and it says a lot about Dewey and his commitment to learning and professional development that he was willing to earn this designation. I am very proud that he has made this commitment."

Harris began serving as Assistant County Manager in Catawba County in August 2008. He is part of a Management Team along with County Manager Tom Lundy and Assistant County Mary Furtado, which works on a day-to-day basis to oversee County operations and carry out the directives of the Board of Commissioners. Harris has day-to-day supervision of the Elections Office, County Library System, Public Health, Social Services, Public Information Office and is coordinator of the County's Legislative Agenda, a set of goals of the Board of Commissioners as it works with the County's representatives to the North Carolina General Assembly and United States Congress.

Prior to serving in Catawba County, Harris held several positions in government with the City of Pacific, Washington and States of Oregon and Washington. He was named Director of the City of Wilmington, North Carolina's Administrative Services Department in 1999. In May 2002, Harris was selected to establish a new department, with a staff of 100, for Wilmington as Director of the Community Services Department, and served as Interim Assistant City Manager while simultaneously retaining the role of Director of Community Services.

Harris earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Rutgers University and later earned a Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Management from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. In the years since, he has continued his education in matters directly relating to government, including the Public Executive Leadership Academy of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and studies at the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia.

"The ICMA Credentialing Program recognizes professional managers who are committed to public service and have made a commitment to continuing professional development," Harris said. "I am proud to be part of that group and I am very proud to be representing Catawba County, an organization with a long history of excellent professional management."

Harris and his wife, Sandy, live in Hickory with their son, Duke, 20, and daughter, Kenni, 15. In addition to his duties as Assistant County Manager, Harris is active in the community, serving as President of the Catawba Valley Rotary Club and as a member of the Boards of Directors of the Arts Council of Catawba County, the Hickory Museum of Art, and Clinton's Corner, Inc.