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CATAWBA COUNTY NAMED AMONG TOP 10 DIGITAL COUNTIES SURVEY WINNERS

Catawba County has been named by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) as one of the Top 10 Digital Counties Survey Awards winners, among counties across the nation with a population between 150,000 and 249,999 people.

The CDG is a national research and advisory institute focused on IT policies and best practices in state and local government. The survey, conducted annually by CDG and *Government Technology*, in partnership with the National Association of Counties, evaluates entrants on their ability to demonstrate successful outcomes through the strategic use of technology.

According to information posted at govtech.com, "Ten winners were named in each of four population-based categories. The winning counties carried out strategies with measurable benefits that aligned with county priorities. Successful programs also showed progress over the previous year, utilized innovative solutions, and revealed a commitment to collaboration within and outside of their organization. The self-reported survey is judged by a panel of experts."

Catawba County's effort to move to "virtual" technology over the last five years has allowed the County to cut its hardware from more than 70 physical servers to 18 physical servers which run more than 300 virtual servers. These virtual servers allowed the County to be far more flexible in its efforts to provide increasing amounts of information and services to the public in the most efficient manner possible. The use of virtual technology was one of the main initiatives featured in Catawba County's nomination for the award.

"Catawba County strives to provide our citizens with the best services and information possible," said Terry Bledsoe, the County's Chief Information Officer. "We listen to citizen needs, look for opportunities, and constantly improve our services. Being selected as one of the Top 10 Digital Counties affirms that our hard work is paying off."

The complete announcement about the 2012 Digital Counties Survey Winners may be seen at
http://www.govtech.com/e-government/2012-Digital-Counties-Survey-Winners-Announced.html