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CATAWBA COUNTY ASSISTANT MANAGER FURTADO EARNS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

NEWTON, NC – Catawba County Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado has earned the Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Furtado is one of more than 1,400 local government management professionals currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

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. The program is peer-reviewed and self-directed, enabling participants to address the unique expertise they bring to their role.

“The ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program is an outstanding and challenging development program for local government leaders,” said Catawba County Manager Mick Berry. “This achievement is representative of Mary’s deep commitment to public service, and I commend her for taking this step.”

Furtado began serving as Assistant County Manager in Catawba County in December 2011. She is part of the County’s management team with County Manager Mick Berry and Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, which oversees County operations and carries out the directives of the Board of Commissioners. Furtado has day-to-day supervision of Public Health, Library, Elections, Cooperative Extension, Technology, Tax, Budget, and the Public Information function.

A 14-year local government veteran with extensive experience in strategic planning, policy and organizational structuring, Furtado joined Catawba County from her role as Executive Director of Strategic Operations in Sarasota County, Florida. While there, she also held positions as a policy/program consultant in the Office of Fiscal Planning and as a strategic planner in the Public Works department. She began her career in public service with the Charleston County, South Carolina School District as a grant evaluator and policy researcher as well as a site supervisor and recreation instructor.

Furtado earned a bachelor’s degree from Hamilton College in New York in 2000 with a dual concentration in philosophy and anthropology. In 2004, she earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Arizona State University. She also earned a Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management. She was named a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society while attending Arizona State.

Highlights of Furtado’s ICMA membership include serving on the organization’s Local Government Management Fellowship Advisory Board, Editorial Press Advisory Board and Emerging Leaders Development Program.

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“The ICMA Credentialing Program provides a platform for professional development that is highly relevant to the work we do in County Management,” said Furtado. “Participating in this program enabled me to not only enhance my skills and set professional goals, but also to identify and evaluate new ideas to bring back to Catawba County.”

Furtado and her husband, Gage, live in Hickory with their sons, Max, age 1, and Quinn, age 3. In addition her duties as Assistant County Manager, Furtado serves as member of the Boards of Directors for the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority, Keep Catawba County Beautiful, and the Women’s Resource Center and is President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Newton-Conover.

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