DeKalb County CEO Ellis earns national recognition for innovative governance

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized DeKalb County, Ga. Chief Executive Officer W. Burrell Ellis, Jr. with the association’s prestigious 2012 County Courthouse Award for Innovative Governance.

Mr. Ellis was selected as the Urban Category winner by an independent panel of judges. He was recognized for his dedication to improving the lives of County’s residents, including his introduction of the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE Dekalb) and for his use of this model to implement initiatives including ONE Dekalb Works (jobs and economic development) and ONE Dekalb Lives (housing). These programs each establish public-private partnerships designed to help the lives of county residents.

“On behalf of the nation’s counties, I commend Mr. Ellis for his outstanding leadership in the face of a difficult economic outlook and for developing innovative means to address those challenges through public-private partnerships,” said NACo President Lenny Eliason, Commissioner, Athens County, Ohio.

This year’s winners were honored at NACo’s 77th Annual Conference and Exposition, July 13-17, in Allegheny County/Pittsburgh, Pa.

Established in 2001, County Courthouse Awards recognize elected county officials who demonstrate innovative and effective leadership to improve the quality of life of their residents. One County Courthouse Award is presented each year in three categories: Rural County, Suburban County, and Urban County. Each winner receives a $5,000 college scholarship to present to a local student.

The County Courthouse Awards are sponsored by Siemens and presented by NACo’s Large Urban County Caucus and Rural Action Caucus. More information is available at www.naco.org.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.