Counties support administration’s National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) has adopted policy in support of the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE), a federal effort to build a cyber savvy nation through awareness, training and education.

The cybersecurity policy resolution was adopted during NACo’s 2011 Annual Conference and Exposition held July 13-17 in Multnomah County/Portland, Ore. It was sponsored by Kristin Judge, Commissioner, Washtenaw County, Mich.

Cybersecurity is a serious economic and national security challenges. NICE evolved from President George W. Bush’s Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative. NICE extends the reach of the initial cybersecurity initiative beyond the federal workplace to include civilians and students in kindergarten through post-graduate school. NICE aims to establish an operational, sustainable and continually improving cybersecurity education program for the nation to utilize sound cyber practices that will enhance the nation’s security.

“Counties are in unique position to effectively support the administration’s initiative because we are the closest form of government to the people and cybersecurity affects every resident we serve,” said Judge, vice chair of NACo’s Court Subcommittee (Justice and Public safety Steering Committee). “Cybersecurity is no longer an issue for IT professionals. Educating the workers of tomorrow and keeping our critical infrastructure, businesses and families safe from online attacks is a shared responsibility. I am pleased that the NACo membership supports President Obama’s National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education.”

Ernest L. McDuffie, Ph.D., lead for the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) U.S. Department of Commerce (DoC), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), said NICE appreciates the work that is ongoing at the grass roots level across this country to improve the cybersecurity awareness of all our citizens.

“The commitment and support represented by this resolution will go a long way in helping us achieve our mutual goals of a safer and more secure cyberspace for all,” McDuffie said.

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The full text of the policy resolution is below.

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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](http://www.naco.org).*
ISSUE: Support of the National Initiative on Cyber Education (NICE)

PROPOSED POLICY: NACo supports the National Initiative on Cyber Education.

BACKGROUND: Cybersecurity has been identified as one of the most serious economic and national security challenges in the nation. Established by the Federal Government, the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) is seeking to address this challenge head on with a strategy to build a cyber savvy nation through training and awareness. NICE has evolved from President Bush’s Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative, and extends its scope beyond the federal workplace to include civilians and students in kindergarten through post-graduate school. One of the goals of NICE is to establish an operational, sustainable and continually improving cybersecurity education program for the nation to use sound cyber practices that will enhance the nation’s security.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is leading the NICE initiative to ensure coordination, cooperation, focus, public engagement, technology transfer and sustainability. Additionally, the initiative is represented by the following four components:

Component 1: National Cybersecurity Awareness Lead: Department of Homeland Security (DHS);

Component 2: Formal Cybersecurity Education Co-Lead Department of Education (DoED) and the National Science Foundation (NSF);

Component 3: Cybersecurity Workforce Structure Lead: Department of Homeland Security (DHS); and


Through collaborative partnerships between federal, state and local governments, industry, academia, non-government organizations and the general public, NICE hopes to educate raise and public awareness about cybersecurity so our nation is resilient to cyber incidents and cyber threats.

FISCAL/URBAN/RURAL IMPACT: Urban and rural residents will benefit equally by increased awareness and education. Private partners and grants will supplement in-kind community member participation.

SPONSOR: Kristin Judge, Commissioner, Washtenaw County, Michigan