Under the leadership of NACo President Linda Langston, the National Association of Counties is embarking on an initiative in 2013 and 2014 to strengthen the resilience of the nation’s 3,069 counties.

In order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, America’s counties must be able to anticipate and adapt to all types of change. Through the Resilient Counties initiative, NACo is working with counties and their stakeholders to bolster their ability to thrive amid changing physical, social and economic conditions. Events such as hurricanes, wildfires, economic collapse and other disasters can be natural or man-made, acute or long-term, foreseeable or unpredictable. Preparation for and recovery from such events requires both long-term planning and immediate action.

NACo’s Resilient Counties initiative is exploring ways that counties can develop and implement locally driven strategies to foster economic competitiveness and create great communities. A key component of county resiliency is building and supporting those great places where businesses want to locate, people want to live and communities can prosper. For more information about the initiative and details on future events and resources, visit www.naco.org/resiliency.

NACo thanks the following organizations for their sponsorship and support:
Welcome to *Resilient Counties: Leadership amid Rapid Change*, a forum for county leaders and their partners. I am so pleased that you could all make it here to Linn County for this important educational event, and I look forward to the next two days of learning with you.

In order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, America’s counties must be able to anticipate and adapt to all types of change. Resilient communities recover faster and better, and fostering resilience makes for a stronger community and a thriving county.

I have chosen to focus my term as president of the National Association of Counties on this important issue. Through the *Resilient Counties* initiative, NACo is working with county leaders and their stakeholders to bolster their communities’ ability to thrive amid ever-shifting physical, social and economic conditions. As part of this initiative, the *Resilient Counties: Leadership amid Rapid Change* forum will build the capacity of county leaders to identify and prepare for potential threats, address recovery needs and develop partnerships to enhance county resiliency.

We are anticipating two days of peer sharing and dialogue with all of you, and we are very much looking forward to your feedback. As the first event for the *Resilient Counties* initiative, we encourage all of you to provide NACo with your comments so we can continue to improve the resources we provide to county leaders.

Finally, I hope to see you at our next *Resilient Counties* forum May 1-2, 2014 in San Francisco, California! We look forward to continuing to partner with you on educational opportunities for you and the 3,069 counties across this nation.

Enjoy your time here in Linn County!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Supervisor Linda Langston
President, National Association of Counties
Meeting & Hotel Location

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
Cedar Rapids Convention Complex
350 First Ave, NE • Cedar Rapids, Iowa • PHONE: 319.731.4512

DOWNTOWN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Follow along on social media! Tag your tweets and Facebook posts with #NACoResiliency.
Meeting Agenda

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

1:30 p.m.  Registration Opens
           Grand Ballroom A & B

2:00 p.m.  Welcome and Introductions
           Speakers:
           Hon. Linda Langston
           NACo President and Supervisor, Linn County, Iowa

           Hon. Ron Corbett
           Mayor of Cedar Rapids

2:15 p.m.  Keynote Address: Leadership amid Rapid Change
           Ken Burris, Witt O’Brien’s CEO and the former COO of the Federal
           Emergency Management Agency, will highlight the important roles
           that county leaders play in building strong networks to prepare for
           and respond to changing conditions. He will draw on his experiences
           in managing response efforts in a multitude of national incidents
           including 9/11, Columbia Shuttle Recovery, 2004 hurricanes, Hurricane
           Katrina and Deepwater Horizon Oil and Gas Recovery.

           Ken Burris
           CEO, Witt O’Brien’s

3:00 p.m.  Lessons from County Leaders: Partnering to Confront Change
           A panel of county leaders will discuss how their communities
           responded to significant local disasters and the steps they are taking
           to mitigate potential future disasters, with a particular focus on local
           and regional partnerships to maintain and improve county operations
           during times of crisis.

           Hon. Linda Langston
           NACo President and Supervisor, Linn County, Iowa

           Hon. Frank Magsamen
           Supervisor, Black Hawk County, Iowa

           Hon. Jane Hague
           Councilmember, King County, Washington
Hon. Darry Stacy  
Commissioner, Cleveland County, Oklahoma

Moderator:  
Bill Peterson  
Executive Director, Iowa State Association of Counties

4:15 p.m.  
Peer Networking Break

4:30 p.m.  
Professional Leadership in Disaster Situations  
This discussion will offer the perspectives of emergency management and public safety staff in crisis situations, highlighting their partnerships with county officials and the importance of streamlining operations and communications to quickly address problems.

Rusty Russell  
Director of Emergency Management  
Madison County, Alabama

Judson Freed  
Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
Ramsey County, Minnesota

Sean O’Brien  
Coordinator, Regional Emergency Planning Committee  
Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Moderator:  
Paul Fitzgerald  
Sheriff, Story County, Iowa  
and Past President, National Association of Sheriffs

5:30 p.m.  
Cedar Rapids Tour  
Participants will board buses for a tour of downtown Cedar Rapids. Five years after record flooding caused billions of dollars of damages, the community has reinvested in new infrastructure and capital projects to invigorate downtown while enhancing community resiliency to future disasters.
6:30 p.m.  Reception  
*National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library*

The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library was inundated when the Cedar River flooded its banks in 2008. After four years of restoration, the original structure was relocated to higher ground nearby and the expanded, elevated facility opened in 2012. This reception will include a video about Linn County’s rebuilding efforts and opportunities to network over heavy hors d’oeuvres. A bus will bring participants back to the hotel after the reception.

*FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6*

8:00 a.m.  Peer Networking Breakfast  
*Grand Ballroom A & B*

8:30 a.m.  Leveraging Technology Tools to Prepare for Threats  
New technologies, innovative mapping tools, mobile applications, social media and other tech resources can revolutionize how counties prepare for and recover from crisis situations. A panel of experts will highlight innovative tools available to counties.

*Lori Cary-Kothera  
Operations Manager – Science and Geospatial Solutions Division  
NOAA Coastal Services Center*

*Jason Hutchens  
Solution Sales Engagement Manager, Public Safety (Central Region)  
Motorola Solutions*
Rob Welton  
National Business Manager, Enterprise Security  
Siemens

Moderator:  
Lauren Alexander Augustine  
Director, Office of Special Projects on Risk, Resilience, and Extreme Events  
National Academy of Sciences

9:45 a.m.  
Peer Networking Break

10:00 a.m.  
Local Philanthropic, Business and Economic Development Engagement in Recovery Efforts  
The philanthropic community, local business leaders and economic development professionals can play a key role in fostering county resilience. Experienced community leaders will describe how their organizations have partnered with public- and private-sector leaders in recovery efforts.

Les Garner  
President and CEO, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

Karla Twedt-Ball  
Vice President for Programs, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

Robin Barnes  
Executive Vice President and COO, Greater New Orleans, Inc.

Lon Olejniczak  
Senior Vice President, Transamerica

Cindy Dietz  
Director of Corporate Communications, Rockwell Collins

Moderator:  
Gerald McSwiggan  
Director of Issue Networks  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Business Civic Leadership Center
11:15 a.m. **Small Group Exercise: Mapping Your Network of Resiliency Stakeholders**
Through facilitated discussions and exercises, participants will identify and map out their existing network of emergency responders, crises managers and other stakeholders in the public, private and philanthropic sectors. Participants will identify gaps and outline opportunities to engage new partners to strengthen county resilience.

Facilitator:
Jami Haberl
Executive Director, Safeguard Iowa

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon Address: County Leadership in Times of Crisis**
*Grand Ballroom C*

David Miller, FEMA’s Associate Administrator for the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, will discuss the opportunities for county officials to be strong leaders in post-disaster situations. Mr. Miller will offer lessons from his experiences serving as the Administrator of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, during which time he served as the Governor’s Authorized Representative for eleven President-declared major disasters, including the 2008 flooding disaster.

David Miller
Associate Administrator for the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Federal Emergency Management Administration

1:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

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**Board of Directors Meeting Schedule**

- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**
  2:00 – 5:00 p.m. National Association of Counties Board of Directors Meeting
  7:00 p.m. NACo Board of Directors Dinner

- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**
  8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. NACo Board of Directors Meeting
Upcoming NACo Events

2014 NACo Legislative Conference
March 1–5, 2014 • Washington, DC
Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20009

County Energy Resilience Forum
NACo’s Green Government Initiative will be holding a County Energy Resilience forum on March 20–22, 2014 in Santa Barbara, California.

Resilient Counties Forum
The next Resilient Counties forum will be held on May 1–2, 2014 in San Francisco.

2014 County Solutions and Idea Marketplace
July 11–14, 2014 • Orleans Parish (New Orleans), LA
Morial Convention Center
900 Convention Center Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70130