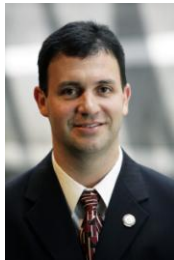


May 11, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Edwin M. Gill Award Presented to Municipal and County Administration Graduate from Rutherford County



CHAPEL HILL, NC – Danny Searcy, county planner for Rutherford County, North Carolina, was named winner of the Edwin M. Gill Award during the April 23 graduation ceremony for the 2008-2009 Municipal and County Administration Course of the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill. The award is presented each year by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to the class member with the most distinguished record; it is given in honor of Edwin M. Gill, former State Treasurer and chairman of the North Carolina Local Government Commission.

The Municipal and County Administration Course is an intensive, eight-month program designed for city and county managers, department heads, and other city or county officials whose responsibilities require an understanding of functions beyond individual areas of specialization. Major areas of instruction include local government law, organization and management, finance and budgeting, public employment law, planning and regulation development, and municipal and county services. Participants are provided with a legal framework and practical application in these areas through lecture, case studies, and group work. The goal of the course is for participants to gain a better appreciation and understanding of the relationship among the broad range of departments that make up local governments.

In addressing the graduates, Mike Smith, dean of the School of Government, said, “If there was ever a time when local governments need to be ‘on their game,’ this is it. I hope that, after completing this rigorous course of study, you feel better prepared to help your communities with the many challenges facing our state today.”

Searcy was one of 33 officials who graduated from the County Administration Course in 2009 and is one of more than 1,250 officials who have completed the course since it began in 1964.

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Established in 1931 as the Institute of Government, the School of Government provides educational, advisory, and research services for state and local governments. Visit www.sog.unc.edu or call 919.966.5381 for more information on the School’s courses, publications, programs, and services.