

Mark W. Smith, Chairman
John Sullivan, Vice Chairman
Doug McLinko, Commissioner



Gayle Kershner, Chief Clerk
Jonathan Foster, Solicitor

Bradford County Commissioners Office

Press Release For Immediate Release

The National Association of Counties announced the selection of Mark W. Smith, Chairman of the Bradford County Commissioners as one of twenty-two county leaders from across the United States to participate in the eighth annual County Leadership Institute, a rigorous four-day program offered in partnership with Cambridge Leadership Associates, the Wagner School of Public Policy at New York University and faculty from the Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Commissioner Smith was nominated by the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania as a county commissioner with a commitment to developing collaborative and innovative solutions to local issues. He will attend the Institute training at IBM's Institute for Electronic Government in Washington, DC, from June 5-9, 2011. Classes meet daily from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and in four evening meetings.

Some of Smith's successes that earned him the nomination include:

- Improving county infrastructure with a \$3 million guaranteed energy savings project.
- Creating the Community Workforce Inmate Program which puts inmates to work improving communities across Bradford County.
- Bradford County's website and E-mail Newsletter.
- Advocating for local resources and educating the public in regards to the development of Marcellus Shale in Bradford County.

The Institute, now in its eighth year, has graduated 165 members from 40 states and 138 counties across the country. Known for enhancing the capacity of county officials to identify and implement innovative solutions to the complex challenges facing county government in the 21st century, this year's program will focus closely on the demands of personal leadership in a new era of government, one characterized as a "permanent crisis" by CLI Program Developer and Cambridge Leadership co-founder Marty Linsky.

“The county officials who participate in the Institute get information, ideas, and perspectives they can’t get anywhere else,” said Larry Naake, executive director of NACo. These county leaders not only discuss the core principles of public service leadership with prominent experts, they also collaborate intensively with each other to develop new ways to attack real-life issues of importance to the citizens of their counties.

Commissioner Smith stated; “I am honored to be selected for the Institute. It is a wonderful opportunity and I intend to take full advantage of the training provided. To be one of just twenty two commissioners from across the United States to be selected makes me very proud and grateful to be a representative of Bradford County.”