



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Good News

Department: Equity and Human Rights

Presenter(s): Dr. Noreal Armstrong, Chief Equity and Human Rights Officer

Contact(s): Rafael Baptista, Strategy and Innovations Director, & Dr. Noreal Armstrong

Subject: National Association of Counties 2023 Achievement Award for Buncombe County NC Racial Equity Training Series

Brief Summary: The National Association of Counties (NACo) is an organization that strengthens America's counties, including nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate for county government priorities in federal policymaking; promote exemplary county policies and practices; nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks; optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings; and enrich the public's understanding of county government. www.naco.org

Each year, NACo's Achievement Awards are given in 18 categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and more. Launched in 1970, the program is designed to recognize innovation in county government. Each nominated program is judged on its own merits and not against other applications.

For 2023, Buncombe County has been recognized with a NACo Achievement Award for the Racial Equity Training Series. The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

The Racial Equity Training Curriculum was created by our Buncombe County's Equity & Inclusion Workgroup through its MEET (Meaningful Engagement, Equity Together) Team. This effort was initiated to help meet the goals outlined in the Racial Equity Action Plan. The MEET team spent over 100 hours developing the Racial Equity Trainings and have trained over 400 county staff. These trainings are offered quarterly to all county staff and is the foundation for which our equity training catalog will be built.

"The Achievement Awards demonstrate excellence in county government and the commitment to serve our residents every day," said NACo President Denise Winfrey. "This year's winners represent some of the most innovative and collaborative efforts we have seen in over 50 years of presenting these awards."