



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

**Fairfield County Auditor’s Office Completes National Association of Counties High Performance Leadership Academy**

**Lancaster, Ohio** – Fairfield County Auditor Carri Brown is pleased to announce the completion of the National Association of Counties (NACO) High Performance Leadership Academy by 100% of Auditor’s Office 31 employees. The office is the first in the country to have 100% of employees graduate from the program.

The High-Performance Leadership Academy is a 12-week course focused on equipping government officials at every level of service with practical leadership skills. General Colin Powell was a leader in creating the curriculum for the program. Weekly topics focused on leadership mindset and positive engagement; leading effective change; communication and collaboration; and leading high-performance teams.

Dr. Carri Brown, one of the first in Fairfield County to complete the program in 2019, stated, “Leadership is found at all levels of an organization. We are appreciative of how the Fairfield County Commissioners have supported this learning opportunity. The foundation of leadership skills creates a culture that encourages innovation, expression, organization, and accountability to benefit the public.”

Luke Afeman, Senior Director of Enrollment for the Academy, added, “Fairfield County, Ohio, has been a consistent leader in completing the 12-week course, and it is encouraging to see how the County Auditor’s Office has supported all of its employees in developing leadership skills.”

For more information on the High Performance Leadership Academy, visit <https://www.naco.org/resources/education-and-training/naco-high-performance-leadership-academy>.

For more information regarding the Auditor’s Office, please contact Rachel Elsea, Communications Officer, at [rachel.elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:rachel.elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov).

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November 16, 2022

Dr. Carri Brown  
Fairfield County Ohio Auditor  
210 East Main Street  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Dr. Brown,

To you and your entire team, thank you!

On behalf of the Professional Development Academy and the NACo High Performance Leadership program, this letter is in recognition of your focus on leadership development and dedication to achieving excellence in the business of county government.

Among the 3069 counties, boroughs, and parishes across the U.S., Fairfield County Ohio stands out, particularly your Auditor's Office. All 34 members of your team have graduated from the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy. This is a testament of you recognizing the importance of leadership development and each member of your team recognizing their role as a leader in Ohio county government. We want to recognize you and your team for excellence in the work you do, the dedication displayed to always being better through training and professional development, and for modeling the way for others to learn and follow. Great job to you and your entire team!

Carrie Brown	David Burgei	Rachel Elsea	Linda O'Tolle
David Miller	Jennifer Dickerson	Jennifer Harmon	Julie White
Michelle Wright	Christina Wetzel	Tonya Wright	Chrystal Walker
Chris Wagner	Bev Anders	Meagan Bowland	Noel Soddors
Lori Hampshire	Angela Horn	Patrick Brighton	Makala Finley
Carter Corcoran	Josh Van Dyke	Rachel Enmen	Lori Kidder
Kelly Brown	Nicholas Dilley	Randy Carter	Jessica Ferguson
Stacy Knight	Curtis Truax	Joshua Harper	Greg Forquer
Robin Balthaser			

We also want to recognize the fact that this has not been easy. The work conducted in the Auditor's Office is demanding, time-sensitive, and requires absolute accuracy. Training is often yet one more to-do item on a long list of competing priorities and the events from the past few years have only increased the challenge of balancing your core work and the work of professional development for continuous improvement. Yet that is exactly what you have done. Your team has stepped up to each of the challenges presented and leaned in with a mindset to get better, better, better.

Carri, you likely see the greatness of your team's work every day. Not being onsite we do not see that, but we certainly want to let you know that your team is both impressive and inspiring. It is not easy modeling the way, but that is what the Fairfield County Ohio Auditor's Office is doing. Offices in other counties in Ohio and across the U.S. are learning from you and following your lead. Again, thank you!

Please know that we are proud of you and your team, the very important work you do, and how you go about doing it. You and your team will likely remember this from the Academy: "You bring the weather." That is what we think of when sharing the success of your work. Keep up the great work. Keep working together in service of your county to get better, better, better. You bring the weather to make all of your success possible!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Rahschulte', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Rahschulte

Chief Executive Officer, Professional Development Academy

Chief Curriculum Design Architect, NACo High Performance Leadership program.