



February 6, 2009

Albany County's Lillian Smith to Graduate from the Pelletier County Government Institute

Ceremony to be held Monday at the NYSAC Legislative Conference in Albany

Albany County Director of the Division of Children with Special Needs Lillian Smith will be recognized Monday by the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) with a Certificate of Achievement from the Dennis A. Pelletier County Government Institute. The recognition will occur at the 2009 NYSAC Legislative Conference.

The Pelletier Institute is an educational program established by NYSAC in conjunction with Cornell University. The Institute is designed to enhance the knowledge, skills and abilities of county officials, allowing them to engage in informed, constructive and civil discussions on the challenges they face as public servants. For more information, visit www.nysac.org.

"The Pelletier Institute provides a foundation, an understanding of county government and how to negotiate the process of achieving one's goals," said Smith. "I think the training would be beneficial for all elected and appointed officials."

In addition to her recent achievement with NYSAC, Lillian Smith is the Director of the Division for Children with Special Needs for Albany County. She was promoted to this position after managing the Healthy Families Albany County program for seven years.

"We congratulate Lillian Smith on this achievement, and we appreciate her commitment to serving the families and children of Albany County," said Sarah Purdy, NYSAC President and Yates County Administrator. "The Pelletier Institute is an educational program providing county officials with valuable skills and knowledge to meet the increasingly challenging demands of governing in the 21st Century."

The Institute's curriculum includes an extensive curriculum on government ethics, building consensus in a political environment, principles of county budget and finance,

and public sector labor/management relations. These are supplemented with electives, training sessions and continuing education courses designed to assist county leaders to more effectively serve the public.

"Pelletier graduates have demonstrated a special commitment to county public service and we are proud of their distinction," said NYSAC Executive Director Stephen J. Acquario. "Education provides the means to make informed decisions, and now more than ever, with scarce resources and service needs on the rise, these decisions are critical."

The New York State Association of Counties is a bipartisan municipal association serving all 62 counties of New York State including the City of New York. Organized in 1925, NYSAC's mission is to represent, educate and advocate for Member Counties and the thousands of elected and appointed county officials who serve the public.