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**Council Member INSERT NAME attended the 2023 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference**

COLUMBUS, OH – **INSERT COUNTY** Council Member **INSERT NAME** attended the 2023 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference at the Hilton in downtown Columbus, Ohio last week. The 3-day event’s theme was “Communicate. Create. Connect.” providing an opportunity for local officials to become inspired by a variety of county commissioners and other experts who shared collaborative ways to address important issues counties are facing. [INSERT PERSONAL COMMENTS/QUOTE HERE IF DESIRED]

Wednesday included a welcome to new CCAO members along with the CCAO/CEAO Opening General Session, featuring a keynote from U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and Trade Association CEO Dr. Peter Cressy. Real Admiral Cressy’s remarks focused on the importance of strategic vision, communication, visibility and collaboration in leadership.

On Thursday, Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted spoke at the CCAO/CEAO Luncheon. Lt. Governor Husted discussed the partnership between the state and counties in delivering services to Ohioans as well as the many investments the DeWine-Husted Administration has made in counties, including funding for roads and bridges, water and sewer infrastructure, public safety, broadband, workforce development and human services. National Association of Counties (NACo) 2nd Vice President J.D. Clark also spoke to attendees.

The conference breakout sessions covered a variety of topics including innovative county solutions to housing, transit, child care challenges, broadband development, cybersecurity, economic development strategies and much more.

The 2024 CCAO Executive Committee Officers were elected at the CCAO Annual Membership and Business Meeting on Thursday. The 2024 Executive Committee includes:

* Chris Abbuhl, Tuscarawas County Commissioner, CCAO President
* David Painter, Clermont County Commissioner, CCAO 1st Vice President
* Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner, CCAO 2nd Vice President
* Casey Kozlowski, Ashtabula County Commissioner, CCAO Treasurer
* Ilene Shapiro, Summit County Executive, CCAO Secretary

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CCAO supports effective county government through legislative advocacy, education and training, quality enterprise service programs and a greater understanding of county government. By partnering with county commissioners, executives and council members, CCAO and its members work toward a shared goal of improving and advancing Ohio’s 88 counties. Stronger counties build a stronger Ohio.