A Unique Community Partnership

Founded in 1994 as the Local Government Program at Albright College, The Center for Excellence in Local Government is a unique partnership among the academic, public and private sectors in the community. The mission of the center is to assist local government officials in providing effective leadership for the development of public policies and the efficient delivery of public services.

Municipal Cooperation

The Albright College Center for Excellence in Local Government provides the leadership to create a culture of cooperation among municipalities. Many issues facing local governments are becoming increasingly complex, and, as a result, municipalities are working cooperatively to reduce operating costs and address issues that require collaborative efforts.

Education, Training and Assistance

The center helps local officials learn best practices, develop skills and improve their understanding of local government authority and procedures for effectively carrying out their responsibilities through a variety of learning experiences such as:

- Workshops
- Mini courses
- Municipal round tables
- Dinner programs
- Cable television
- Audio conferences
- Customized training

Since its founding in 1994, the center has had more than 8,000 attendees at its programs.
Accomplishments

• Officials from more than 75 percent of Berks communities attend programs each year.

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• Established the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council—more than 80 members participating in joint bids for products and services valued at more than $2 million.

• Facilitated the creation of the Berks County Health Insurance Consortium, which enables municipalities to jointly purchase health insurance, and the Berks County Building and Code Association, which provides for joint training and the sharing of information on codes.

• Established the Berks Municipal Partnership, a forum for municipal officials from throughout Berks County to discuss issues that can best be addressed regionally or countywide.

• Conducted regional meetings for municipal, school and police officials to discuss regional or countrywide options for providing law enforcement services.

• Conducts a Master Planner Program, co-sponsored by the Berks County Planning Commission, which provides 27 hours of training in planning, zoning and subdivision, and land development.

•Educates municipal officials on recent land use court decisions and land use planning tools and techniques by hosting the annual Pennsylvania Land Use Institute in cooperation with other local and state organizations.

• Coordinated the work of the Berks Census 2010 Complete Count Committee that resulted in the Berks participation rate exceeding both the national and state rates.

• Local residents are better prepared to participate in local government affairs through their participation in the County of Berks and the City of Reading Citizens Academies developed by the center.

• Facilitated the creation of both the Governor Mifflin Area Coordinating Council to foster communication and smart growth among the five communities and the school district, and the Southern Berks Implementation Committee to develop cooperative initiatives.

• Enables municipal officials to share expertise and experiences through regularly scheduled roundtable discussions and the annual Berks Municipal Officials Dinner.

• Provided the initial training that resulted in the eventual merger of several volunteer fire companies in the county.

• Operates under a unique partnership involving Albright College, over 60 municipalities and more than 30 private firms.

Pledge Card: I would like to support The Albright College Center for Excellence in Local Government with a gift of $______________.

Method of Payment (mail payment to address on reverse)

☐ Check enclosed made payable to Albright College

☐ Make a one-time charge to my credit card listed below

Please charge my credit card for $________________________

☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Discover  ☐ American Express

Card # __________________ Exp. Date: ___/_____

Name on Card: _______________________________________

Phone (______) _____________________________________

Billing Address ______________________________________

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Signature _________________________________________

☐ My community/firm is interested in becoming a Sponsor

Community/Firm Name _________________________________

Contact Name _______________________________________

Title _______________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City ___________________ State _______ ZIP ___________

Phone ___________________ Cell Phone _______________

E-mail address _______________________________________

☐ I am interested in becoming a Friend of the Center

Name ______________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City ___________________ State _______ ZIP ___________

Phone ___________________ Cell Phone _______________

E-mail address _______________________________________

Our Operating Year is June 1 – May 31

Increase the power of your contribution through your company’s generosity. Please ask your human resources department if they have a matching gift program.

Participants are admitted to events without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, political affiliation, national origin or disability.