

NEWS RELEASE

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Clifford Branch Graduates from the UNC CGCIO™ Certification Program

Suffolk, VA (June 21, 2011) – Clifford Branch, Chief Information Officer for the City of Suffolk, has successfully graduated from the 2010-2011 National Certified Government Chief Information Officers Program™ at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Government, offered in conjunction with GMIS International.

The CGCIO™ program is the first local government specific program for CIOs in the nation and began in 2005. The program is designed for local government Information Technology Directors and Chief Information Officers whose challenging responsibilities require a broad understanding of management, leadership, legal, regulatory, and enterprise topics. The course is approximately 240 hours in length and course instruction covers strategic technology planning, communication, project management, emerging trends, risk assessment and management, acquisition management, change management, leadership, security, legal issues and financial trends.

The program's director, Dr. Shannon Tufts, has been recognized by *Government Technology* magazine as one of the 2010 Top 25 Doers, Dreamers, and Drivers for the creation and expansion of this nationally acclaimed program. The program

seeks to elevate the position of the dedicated and talented cadre of public sector technology leaders who work tirelessly to serve the public good through strategic investments in technology.

Clifford Branch is one of the thirteen public sector leaders in the nation who successfully completed the course this year. He is also one of ten public sector CIOs from the State of Virginia to complete the program. Over the course of its existence, the CGCIO™ program has graduated over 450 public sector technology leaders across the nation.

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