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## County of Waldo Sheriff earns national recognition for innovative governance

**PORTLAND, ORE.** – The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized the County of Waldo, Maine Sheriff Scott Story with the association's prestigious 2011 County Courthouse Award for Innovative Governance.

Sheriff Story was selected as the Rural Category winner by an independent panel of judges. He was recognized for his dedication to improving the lives of County of Waldo residents, including his leadership to transform the county jail into a successful reentry center which includes a volunteer mentoring program and other support services. The new center has exponentially increased job placement and community service by residents of the facility and initially lowered recidivism rates to 15 percent.

"On behalf of the nation's counties, I commend Sheriff Story for his outstanding leadership in improving jail diversion through the inclusion of county residents in mentoring positions," said NACo President Glen Whitley, county judge, Tarrant County, Texas. "The initiatives he has led will benefit the County of Waldo for many years to come."

This year's winners were honored at NACo's 76th Annual Conference and Exposition, July 15-19, in Portland/Multnomah County, Ore.

Established in 2001, County Courthouse Awards recognize elected county officials who demonstrate innovative and effective leadership to improve the quality of life of their residents. One County Courthouse Award is presented each year in three categories: Rural County, Suburban County, and Urban County. Each winner receives a \$5,000 college scholarship to present to a local student.

The County Courthouse Awards are sponsored by Siemens and presented by NACo's Large Urban County Caucus and Rural Action Caucus. More information is available at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).

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*The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).*