



*National Association of Election Officials*

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**The Election Center**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leslie Swan, Indian River County Supervisor of Elections was designated as a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA), the highest professional achievement, in ceremonies conducted by the Election Center at the Westin on the Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, TX on Friday, August 19, 2011.

CERA designation is achieved only through a multi-year course of study conducted by the Election Center's Professional Education Program and completion of twelve core courses taught by the Master's in Public Administration faculty of Auburn University (Auburn, Alabama) ranging from ethics, to voter registration and elections law, planning, communications, and voter participation, among others. The intent of the program is to professionalize the management of voter registration and elections administration in promoting and preserving public trust in the democratic process.

"This is the highest designation available to elections and voter registration officials," said R. Doug Lewis, director of the Center. "Of the more than 21,000 elections and voter registration officials throughout America, this graduating class of 88 professionals takes us to 677 election officials who have achieved the CERA status. This is an outstanding accomplishment."

"Indian River County is indeed fortunate to have Leslie Swan as one of the top designated professionals in America. Obtaining and maintaining CERA status means that she has committed to a career long process of continuing education to improve the electoral process in Florida and the nation," he stated.

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Leslie Swan, an elections official for seven years, said, "This is one of the most challenging education programs I have ever participated in. We covered the law and also ethical considerations in how to better serve the public. It is my great honor to assure that the public's will is accurately reflected in our elections,"

The Professional Education Program is sponsored by The Election Center, a non-profit association of voter registrars and elections administrators throughout America. Its membership is comprised of township, city, county and state elections officials. The Center's primary purpose is education for local and state voter registrars and elections officials to promote and improve the democratic process. Professional Education Program participants receive continuing education credit from Auburn University as well as professional training credits from The Election Center. Lewis said, "Due to Election 2000, we now know just how important and complicated elections can be. In my opinion, the elections officials deserve the highest recognition that a community can give.