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## LOCAL NEWS

# Tarrant County judge's consensus-building abilities lead to national award

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Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley's collaborative style has earned him national recognition as County Leader of the Year for 2010 by *American City and County Magazine*.

The magazine praised Whitley, 57, for his ability to build consensus on transportation issues. He was honored at the National Association of Counties annual conference in Reno, Nev., where he was sworn in Tuesday as the new president of the organization.

"Whitley's ability to bring together diverse groups to resolve issues is the hallmark of his leadership style, sorting out the issues, listening to all points of view, yet insisting, in the end, that a solution must be identified and rallied around," the magazine said.

Whitley told the magazine that solutions that include benefits for all parties are essential to his political philosophy of using available resources, finding where government works best but not ruling out private contributions, and organizing people for optimal results.

"This award really isn't about me," said Whitley, who was elected to the Commissioners Court in 1996. "There are many county leaders across our nation who work as hard as I do to build consensus on issues important to our communities and county residents."

North Richland Hills Mayor Oscar Trevino said the magazine "picked the right guy."

"Glen is extremely vocal, but even if he has formulated an opinion, he really listens to other people. He's quick to adjust his opinion if he hears a better way. That's why he's good at building consensus; he wants to hear other people's thoughts."

County Commissioner Gary Fickes, who was elected to Whitley's seat when he became county judge in 2006, said that when Whitley talks, people listen.

"Glen has always been a rock-solid guy. Whatever he tells you, that's what he does," Fickes said.

Whitley said the fiscal challenges posed by the faltering economy are going to make collaboration increasingly important for regional governments.

"We have got a tremendous challenge in this region in regards to transportation and it's made even larger by the fact that the financing at the federal and state levels are decreasing," he said.

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