

# ***LEHIGH COUNTY***

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*Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., County Executive*

## **Lehigh County Executive Don Cunningham Receives Planning Award**

*American Planning Association PA Chapter gives Cunningham Leadership Award for an Elected Official*

**Allentown, Pa:** Lehigh County Executive Don Cunningham received the Planning Leadership Award for an Elected Official from the American Planning Association Pennsylvania Chapter at its annual conference in King of Prussia, Pa. Tuesday.

“Cunningham has been a strong leader in the Lehigh Valley, particularly in encouraging regionalism by creating a Congress of Governments for Lehigh County,” where municipal officials meet to discuss urban sprawl, transportation and other common issues, said Brian O’Leary, chairman of the awards committee. “He has consistently championed smart growth, urban revitalization, and open space preservation. Through a long career, Donald Cunningham has proved that he is a passionate advocate for good, effective planning.”

More than 500 people attended the conference.

Lehigh is the third-ranking county in the state for farmland preservation, protecting more than 19,000 acres or 277 farms from being developed as strip malls or housing projects. Cunningham also directed nearly \$2 million to expand the 19-mile trail system and open more than 1,100 acres at Trexler Nature Preserve in Schnecksville to hikers, bikers, horseback riders and fishermen. He’s launched a major initiative to slash energy consumption by 20 percent at nine county buildings and joined with his counterpart in Northampton County to create a bi-county affordable housing task force.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the APA is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent organization for appointed and elected officials and professionals with an interest in planning.