

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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LOCAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE JOIN NEW CLASS OF BERGEN LEADS

North Jersey: Bergen LEADS, Bergen County's first community leadership program, kicked off its 2009-2010 semester on September 21. This year's 30 participants met fellow classmates, discovered their personal leadership styles, and set personal goals for the coming 10-month program. A panel of distinguished Bergen County leaders, which included Michael Stern, CEO of Kreisler Industrial, an aeronautics parts manufacturer; Leo McGuire, Bergen County Sheriff; Elinor Ferdon, a volunteer with United Way and Girl Scouts USA; and Rev. Vernon Walton, Bergen County Freeholder, helped class members further define leadership.

Sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, Bergen LEADS is designed to prepare the next generation of leaders to tackle the challenges and embrace the opportunities found in Bergen County.

The men and women of the class of 2010, aspiring and acknowledged leaders of widely diverse backgrounds who live or work in Bergen County, were chosen through a competitive process in early 2009. They will meet monthly to dissect issues, debate viewpoints and develop approaches to community problems.

Under the guidance of former Bergen County Executive William "Pat" Schuber, the LEADS Seminar Director, participants are immersed in a stimulating curriculum that not only introduces them to topical issues of local importance, but also enables them to

explore their leadership styles, enhance their leadership capacity and become meaningfully engaged in helping to solve some of the challenges facing Bergen County.

Participants will meet one day each month September through June; topics to be explored include Community, Education, Health, Diversity, Law & Public Safety and Environment. A typical day will include a keynote speaker followed by dialog with a panel of experts involved in that issue. The afternoon will be spent on site visits to locations where the topics become alive.

“We are thrilled with the level of commitment and energy that this new class demonstrates. A critical component of Bergen LEADS is developing in participants a sense of responsibility for the community,” says Amanda Missey, Bergen LEADS Director. “We look forward to see what this class will accomplish. Will they champion a cause? Run for office? Launch a social enterprise venture? Lead a community organization? The sky’s the limit.”

The members of the 2009-2010 Bergen LEADS class are:

Damian Albergo, a partner at Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard PA and resident of Hasbrouck Heights; Stacey Antine, MS, RD, founder and CEO of HealthBarn USA; Teaneck residents: Anthony Baker, a business manager and accountant at BFG, LLC; James Brown, CPA; Muzette Charles a financial consultant at AXA Advisors, LLC; Patricia O’Shea of Sprint Communications; and Daniel Rothner, founder and director of Areyvut; Susan Barnard, DHSc,RDH, of Englewood, Dean of the Division of Health Professions at Bergen Community College; Charles Calabrese, DC PA of Wallington, owner of Fairmount Chiropractic Center; Sharon Castanteen, a North Bergen resident and Director of Johnson Public Library; Lisa Crystall, a resident of Wyckoff and Correction Lieutenant with the Bergen County Sheriff’s Department; Demarest resident Ray Cywinski of United Water; Ridgewood residents: Roberta Sonenfeld, retired financial services executive; Jeanne Johnson, active community volunteer; Geri Dawes, owner of 3-D Communications; and Lee Miller of Cushman & Wakefield; Karyn England of Huron Consulting Group LLC, and a resident of Upper Saddle River; Bogota resident Daniele Cervino, Sr. VP and General Counsel for EWWA; Ramsey residents: George Fosdick, a relationship manager at Wachovia Wealth Management and Suzanne Sweeney, a specialist in Customer Energy Services at Orange

& Rockland Utilities; Wayne resident Jane He, Director of Development for the Volunteer Center of Bergen County; Barbara Heiser O'Neil, of Hawthorne, a New Jersey State and Federal liaison for PSEG; Tenafly residents: Faye Samuels a volunteer with Youth Consultation Services; and MaryBeth Sigler-Garcia, owner of Cantarima Multimedia; Rev. Charles Singletary of Somerset, senior chaplain for the Bergen County Council of Churches; Joe Thomas Director of Web, Instructional Technology and Online Learning for Continuing Studies at FDU, and resident of Montvale; Joanne Westphal, Dumont resident and VP/Retail Market Manager at TD Bank; Hackensack resident Staci White, COO for New Jersey Community Development Corp.; Paramus residents: Lynda Wolf, New Business Development for Kelly Services and Wendy Worden, Director of Development for Alpine Learning Group.

Bergen LEADS seeks individuals from all ethnic, racial and socio-economic backgrounds who espouse different political, religious and social views for future classes. Visit www.bergenleads.org for more information. Applications for the next Bergen LEADS class will be accepted January 1 to April 2, 2010.

Founded by the Junior League in 1966, the mission of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating model volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

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