

REGIONAL FOCUS



Leadership programs impact region

Winter 2002
Volume III, Issue I

The Taskforce

The Northeast Ohio Regional Leadership Taskforce is a partnership formed by the Urban University Programs (UUP) Northeast Ohio Research Consortium and the twenty Community Leadership Programs (CLPs) of Northeast Ohio. Visit our web site at www.cc.yosu.edu/neolead.com

Survey

New survey on website.
See page 3.

Taskforce Programs

Find out the history of your Regional Leadership Taskforce.
See page 4.

The 20 community leadership programs (CLPs) in northeast Ohio have been a growing influence in the region beginning with the first graduates of **Leadership Cleveland** in 1979. There are now over 7,000 program alumni, with nearly 600 new graduates joining the ranks each year. These programs represent a collective financial investment approaching \$2 million each year in developing community leaders for this region.

CLPs in northeast Ohio continue to develop and evolve. Cleveland is in its 23rd year, and **Leadership Columbiana** started as recently as 1999. The Columbiana program is being re-vamped this year, and **Leadership SHAKER** has returned after a brief hiatus. Leadership Canton broadened its original focus to become **Leadership Stark County**, and Leadership Warren and Leadership Youngstown merged to become **Leadership Mahoning Valley**.

While the programs share a common commitment to community leadership development, they employ many unique approaches to achieving that goal. Project development, skill building, and programs targeted at niche markets are a few that will be highlighted in this issue.

Project Development

Unique Approach

According to Mary Ann Boland, director, **Leadership Akron**, their program has added a project to teach participants the importance of philanthropy, and the difference that it can make in improving the quality of life in the community.

The project began in 1996 with an annual donation of \$10,000 from John Frank, president of the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, to be distributed by the Leadership class to 501 (c) (3) organizations, religious groups, or tax-supported educational institutions. Since 1999, Boland reports, the GAR Foundation has donated an additional \$10,000 per year toward the philanthropy project.

Boland observes, "The process enables the participants to realize how philanthropic ideals have an impact on all segments of the community. The class also learns about consensus building and working toward a common goal."

Class Projects

Many of the region's CLPs include class projects as part of the program year. Some entertain proposals from community agencies and choose a project. Some ask class members to observe

Leadership Program Facts

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*See **Projects**, page 3*

SkillBuilding

Cleveland Bridge Builders (CBB) is on a mission to create future leaders within the greater Cleveland area. Started only two years ago, CBB has developed an innovative and comprehensive program to teach emerging young leaders essential leadership skills.

“CBB focuses on emerging leaders because we believe strongly that leadership development is a lifelong process,” says Laura Novak, director, CBB.

Participants learn about leadership styles, visioning and planning, negotiation and conflict resolution, the dynamics of power, and leadership in a diverse environment.

LAPs

The CBB participants also engage in Leadership Action Projects (LAPs) in addition to leadership skills.

The LAPs are small group projects that are designed to provide participants the opportunity to use the skills they are learning in a real-world environment.

Novak said this year’s class is focusing on interviewing leaders in the following four areas: economic development, education, diversity, and leadership.

“We would like to see the greater Cleveland area adopt a focus of having goals and objectives,” says Novak.

The greater Cleveland area currently has several other community leadership programs (CLPs) including **Leadership Euclid**, **Leadership SHAKER**, and **Leadership Cleveland**. With over 1,300 graduates since 1979, Leadership Cleveland is the senior ranking program in the region. Look Up to Cleveland serves the youth of the Cleveland area.

LEAD

Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) is the newest addition to Leadership Mahoning Valley’s array of programs. It too is a skill-based program for emerging leaders. LEAD is designed to actively engage participants in their communities.

Continued Training

Leadership Portage County (LPC) wants to train even more leaders in their community. According to Karen Claxton, director, LPC can only accommodate up to 40 people each year.

“We believe that true community transformation happens through leadership and the relationships that people build,” says Claxton.

In order to reach others interested in community leadership development, LPC developed a one-day Personal and Professional Leadership Development Conference three years ago. This year’s conference is set for April 4th at Kent State University. Call Karen for more information - 330.673.5724.

Leadership Medina County also scheduled a seminar this February called “Grants for All Seasons and All Reasons” to provide the grant-seeking skills necessary to help people broaden their resources, and further their growth in and service to Medina County.

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Targeted Programs

Seniors

LEADERship Ashtabula County has its eye out for the senior population. In collaboration with Kent State Ashtabula Campus and other participating agencies, the Ashtabula County Senior LEADERS/Senior Scholar Program became the first senior program in the region in 2000.

Seniors are a significant human resource pool that can be more engaged to serve within the community, says Marta Stone, director, LEADERship Ashtabula County.

The program offered 13 sessions in 2000-2001 ranging from health and medical issues to ethnic demographic information to the history of rail transportation.

Stone said the leadership program decided to focus on the senior population because it is a growing and critical segment of the population.

Youth

Many northeast Ohio leadership programs also deal with youth in their communities. In 1984 **Leadership Unlimited** designed a program for high school sophomores called the Young Leaders Institute. Two representatives are selected annually from each of the participating public, parochial and independent schools in the Mansfield-Richland area.

According to Bill Sharp, director, Leadership Unlimited, the purpose of the program is to provide educational activities that would familiarize participants with community opportunities, resources, and issues. It also provides a forum for tomorrow's leaders to interact with today's leaders.

This program has made an impact with the students, says Sharp. I believe that we meet our goals.

Sharp notes that some of the Young Leaders graduates have returned to the area after obtaining their college education because of what they learned through the program. The program shows the potential of the Mansfield-Richland County area, says Sharp.

Sharp said that as part of the program, the participants also visit the statehouse in Columbus every other year.

Other Youth Programs

Similar youth programs are offered by **Leadership Stow/Munroe Falls, Leadership Wooster, LEAD Sandusky, Leadership Lake County** and **Project Leadership of Huron County**.

Survey Initiative

As this issue of Regional Focus indicates, CLPs are a growing influence in the region. Quantifying and qualifying the impact of these programs on participants and of participants on the communities of the region is the goal of our most recent survey. Please go to <http://intercom.virginia.edu/SurveySuite/Surveys/NEOLEAD> and take less than three minutes to complete the survey. Results will be reported in the aggregate and will also be available by program. Going forward, the survey initiative plans to tap the collective wisdom of our region's leaders on other issues of importance.

Summit

Community Leaders: Partners in Building a World Class Region III is slated for **Friday, June 28, 2002**, at Cleveland State University's Mather Mansion from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A delegate team approach is planned, with each program being asked to send their director, board president, and an alumni representative along with a leading community educator and an economic development expert. The taskforce will support all costs for the summit that will again focus on education and economic development subjects overwhelmingly identified by leadership graduates as the most critical to the future of the region.

Notes

Projects, continued from page 1

community needs throughout the year and decide on one or more projects. **Leadership Stark County** divides the class into six teams that complete asset-building, community-based projects. Teams raise their own funds with budgets limited to \$1,000.

Alumni Projects

A few programs tap the talents of their growing alumni groups for efforts such as **Leadership Lorain County's** involvement in a community visioning effort, Lorain County 2020. Others encourage graduates to join in a multitude of community efforts like comprehensive plans or to assist with community celebrations. **Leadership Ashland** invited alumni to help celebrate the program's 10th anniversary with workshops and a dinner. **Leadership Cleveland** marked their 20th anniversary with the establishment of an endowment.

Northeast Ohio Leadership Program

F A C T S

Program	Origin	Size	Affiliation	# of Grads	Budget	Class Projects	Area Served
Cleveland Bridge Builders	2000	45	Independent	38	\$250,000	yes	Greater Cleveland
LEADSandusky	1984	25	Independent	483	\$34,000	yes	Erie County
Leadership Akron	1984	34	Independent	512	\$143,000	yes	Greater Akron
Leadership Ashland	1990	23	Chamber	225	\$17,500	optional	Ashland County
LEADERship Ashtabula Co.	1988	30	Independent	420	\$132,000	no	Ashtabula County
Leadership Cleveland	1978	60	Chamber	1,300	\$240,000	no	Greater Cleveland
Leadership Columbiana Co.	1999	15	Independent	30	\$10,000	no	Columbiana County
Leadership Euclid	1997	15	Chamber	64	\$10,000	yes	Euclid
Leadership Geauga County	1996	25-30	Independent	200	\$100,000	no	Gauga County
Leadership Lake County	1986	35	Independent	514	\$187,000	yes	Lake County
Leadership Lorain County	1985	39	Independent	556	\$175,000	yes	Lorain County
Leadership Mahoning Valley	1984	35-40	Independent	800	\$265,000	yes	Trumbull/Mahoning/Columbiana Co.
Leadership Medina County	1991	32-40	Independent	330	\$60,000	yes	Medina County
Leadership Portage County	1991	up to 40	Independent	380	\$100,000	yes	Portage County
Leadership SHAKER	1992	15-30	City	146	\$2,000	yes	Shaker Heights
Leadership Stark County	1987	36	Chamber	475	\$114,000	yes	Stark County
Leadership Stow/Munroe Falls	1997	10-15	Chamber	46	\$7,000	yes	Stow/Munroe Falls
Leadership Unlimited	1982	30	Independent	470	\$45,000	no	Richland County
Leadership Wooster	1996	25	Chamber	125	\$20,000	yes	Wayne County
Project Leadership of Huron Co.	1996	20	Community/Chamber	100	\$10,000	yes	Huron County
20 Program Totals				7,214	\$1,921,500		



Northeast Ohio Regional Leadership Taskforce

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