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Multicultural Leadership Program

Developing diverse leaders in McLean County



Leadership Untapped

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Save the Date

Graduation Ceremony and Breakfast
for the Class of 2011

Saturday, April 2

Details to follow

Alumni Update

The MCLP Class of 2010 has stayed connected this year

Newsletter
December 2010

Who are we? MCLP is an intense professional development curriculum that provides a framework to those with an interest and potential to step into leadership roles within our communities. Each class consists of 25 individuals who attend sessions and participate in a community project over an eight-month period. Our goal is to prepare skilled, informed individuals for leadership positions in public, private, educational, political and non-profit sectors.



MCLP Class of 2011

Welcome MCLP Class of 2011

Submitted by Gary Williams, Class Facilitator

In August, MCLP welcomed a diverse group of 25 individuals to begin an intense nine-month professional leadership development program. The first half of the class of 2011 program year has been a tremendous success, as class participants have fully embraced the program's exceptional curriculum and are taking advantage of the phenomenal speakers and mentors. Class sessions are full of learning and sharing opportunities that generate excellent class discussion. These 25 participants are working in teams that utilize collaborative

through both community service and social events. MCLP is proud to announce that **several of our 2010 graduates serve on local not-for-profit boards** for organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, Prevent Child Abuse, Black Business Alliance and YWCA.

MCLP will have a **Not-for-Profit Board Recruitment Fair on Saturday, March 5, 2011**. If your group or organization would like more information on participating in this fair and connecting with MCLP's talented leaders, [send us a message](#).

MCLP in the Media

MCLP class participants, alumni and staff have participated in interviews on the "Broad View" program on WJBC and WXRJ's "What's Going On" to discuss how MCLP is changing the community. Most recently, class members Cavell Walcott and Sandeep Davalbhakta [were featured on the "Broad View"](#) to discuss diversity of thought.

Sponsors Essential to MCLP Success

MCLP has been fortunate to receive

efforts to achieve goals.

Currently, the class is working in community-project groups with four local agencies, and on December 11 they will be providing updates regarding the status of these projects. They will also be attending sessions over the next few months that include topics on leadership in health care, executive leadership and achieving work-life balance, among others. This year's program will conclude with a graduation ceremony on April 2 to honor the class participants' incredible growth and achievements.

If you are interested in applying to be in the class of 2012, contact us at 309.438.3417 or contactus@bn-mclp.org. MCLP will have a class recruitment event on Saturday, March 5 - more details to follow.

Learn more about [this year's class participants](#).

Perspectives on Leadership: Leadership Lessons from Mahatma Gandhi

Submitted by Munjal Dave, Class of 2011



Gandhi is generally considered one of the most inspiring and influential world leaders of the last hundred years. From humble beginnings he gained world prominence, helped achieve independence for India and left a lasting legacy for us all. However, in the age of Facebook and iPad, are his leadership lessons still relevant? I have come to realize that many of Gandhi's core principles are remarkably relevant. This is especially true of Gandhi's thoughts and practices in the realm of leadership competencies and self-development, especially the ideas of:

- Continuous learning and improvement
- Looking at each person without labels, just as a human being
- Being an excellent listener
- Proactively identifying barriers to make change sustainable
- Being the conscience keeper
- Heavy emphasis on self-awareness and discipline
- Balancing value-driven vision and execution efficiency
- Emphasis on path and result
- Adopting holistic perspective in every endeavor

[Read the complete article.](#)

To read more of the author's musings, [visit his occasional blog](#).

Perspectives on Multiculturalism: The Impact of Food on Cultural Understanding

Submitted by Leslie Harding, Class of 2011

support from many local businesses and organizations. To assist MCLP in its mission to serve our community by offering a financial gift or in-kind donation, contact us at 309.438.3417.

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As a chef and food service professional, food--and especially eating--are very near and dear to my heart. Since the beginning of mankind, food and dining have brought families and friends together. America's diverse immigrant population has influenced the development of American cuisine and has resulted in multicultural approaches to traditional meals, holiday meals and everyday attitudes about eating.

Cuisines from many cultures are commonplace in our cities and small towns across America. These cuisines are enjoyed and accepted by consumers from all backgrounds. If we can embrace and love the foods of a country or people, can we use food as a bridge to further understanding? If we stop for a moment and ask ourselves questions we might better understand their history and our own. Why are certain foods eaten or prepared in certain ways? Why are some dishes only served on special occasions? Why are some foods shunned? It pays to stop and to consider more than the taste and plate appeal of a specific dish.

So, the next time you find yourself in a Thai, Chinese or Mexican restaurant, or cook a meal from one these cuisines yourself, think about the people, country and the history behind the dish. Through different cuisines, we can gain understanding of America's many diverse cultures.

Note from the Program Director

In September, I had the honor of stepping into the role of program director for MCLP. With a background in higher education administration, a passion for community service and leadership, and a dedication to issues of diversity, I feel that working with MCLP has been a perfect fit. On a personal note, my husband, Chris, and I have lived in Bloomington/Normal for 10 years and have two young children, Olivia and Reed.

I am continually grateful for and impressed by all of the support in the community for our organization. If I can ever be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 309.438.3417.

Most sincerely,
Beni Kawakita

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