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December 2011

Leadership Untapped



Developing Diverse Leaders in McLean County.

Who are we? MCLP is an intense professional leadership development program that provides a framework for diverse individuals with an interest and potential to serve as leaders in our community. Our goal is to prepare skilled, informed individuals for leadership positions in public, private, educational, political and non-profit sectors.

Giving Thanks: For MCLP's past, present and future...

by Sonya Mau

Becoming executive director of the Multicultural Leadership Program (MCLP) is a great honor and a great responsibility. It's humbling to join an awesome team of supporters, sponsors, speakers, instructors, advisors, and board members. In honor of these volunteers who make MCLP successful, this December newsletter is GIVING THANKS to YOU.



Giving Thanks for our Past

So far MCLP has graduated two classes, nearly 50 leaders, who are making a difference in their community, their workplace and their homes. I am privileged to hear of their many accomplishments. We share a few in our [blog](#) and in this newsletter. We will share more.

Giving Thanks for our Present

The third MCLP class of diverse leaders just completed their mid-term community project presentations. It's obvious they are a creative, hard-working, energetic, and fun class "on the grow".

But don't take my word for it; come see for yourself. On the morning of March 3 they'll give their final project presentations. On

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Graduation Celebration MCLP Class of 2012

On Saturday, March 31, 2012 evening at the Doubletree Conference Center and Hotel, come celebrate the graduation of the MCLP class of 2012.

The future is bright for them and for our community!
Submit a nomination for [Alumni Award](#) and [Community Service Award](#)

Final Community Project Presentations

will be presented by the MCLP class of 2012 on Saturday, March 3 from 8:00-10:40 AM at Heartland Community College, the Astroth Auditorium.

Recruiting for Class of 2013

MCLP will hold a recruiting

the evening of March 31 they will celebrate graduation. Come be part of the celebration!

Giving Thanks for our Future

We believe in a bright future for our community as long as there are effective leaders in all corners of our community: leaders who serve and have the courage to lead when opportunity presents itself. MCLP works to develop diverse leaders for our community. We thank YOU our readers and supporters for making it possible. We thank our graduates for creating a legacy that will keep our community vibrant and strong.

We can't feature everyone who's so unselfishly given of their time and talents. But we can...

Wish you All a Wonderful Giving Season and a Bright New Year!!

Striving for Success

"The people who know about it... know that it's a very good thing in this community and they know that it's a vision whose time has come"

- Deanna Frautschi

Deanna Frautschi, first Chairperson of Multicultural Leadership Program (MCLP) Advisory Council, "still can't wrap her head around the success stories" that have emerged from MCLP. Needless to say, she is beyond thankful for the combined efforts of volunteers who have contributed to make MCLP what it is today.



Setting an example for MCLP members and graduates, Frautschi serves on numerous community boards, including the Baby Fold. "The Baby Fold wanted an MCLP graduate to join the board and one of our participants joined last year," said Frautschi.

That new board member is...

[Read more](#)

Our Extraordinary Man

"When I first started the program, I was afraid to take big risks, but that's no longer the case."

- Rahul Bafna

If you need more proof that the Multicultural Leadership Program is paving the way for community leaders, look no further. MCLP alum Rahul Bafna, MCLP class of 2011, was one of the five

reception immediately following final project presentations on Saturday, March 3rd for individuals interested in joining the MCLP class of 2012-13. If you have a candidate in mind or if you are interested in applying, check out our [application page](#). Email contactus@bn-clp.org or call 309-438-3417

Sponsors Essential to MCLP Success

MCLP has been fortunate to receive 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 or

[**Donate**](#)

Michelle: wanted to about staging. I re explained how process works.

Visionary Sponsors:



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recipients of the Extraordinary/Ordinary Man of the Year Award. The award recognizes a handful of men for their efforts to improve the community. It's no question that Bafna is deserving of such an award. He feels his experiences in MCLP gave him the boost that he needed.



[Read more](#)

Behind Every Smile is a Story

By Anand Bhende, MCLP Class 2012

We all have a story deep within our hearts, but do we share it with everyone else? Probably not.

I am a participant of MCLP class of 2012, and throughout the curriculum we have a very interesting series of session called 'Inspirational Stories', where each participant share their inspirational and intense story hiding behind their smiles. Believe me, it hard not to get involved and be emotional about it. But why would I get involved or even tell my personal story to a group of people? It the environment that the program develops to foster a real camaraderie to create an everlasting friendship.



We all have a journey which is called life and as we progress, we come across people that have touched our lives, created a big impact and helped us reach where we are today. It's almost four months since we all started on this program but I can surely say that the participants are just not a group of people but someone I will remember for rest of life for helping me reach where I want to be.

[Read more](#)

Final Thoughts...

Our Graduates are our Legacy.
But there would be no graduates if MCLP did not exist.
Giving thanks would not be complete, if I did not recognize a few whose dedication made this dream come true:

1) **Phani Aytam**, founder of the Multicultural Leadership Program,

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an unstoppable man with a big dream. Yet he modestly describes his goal as "to help where needed."

2) **The MCLP Board**, dedicated people with busy lives who devote an extraordinary amount of time to ensure a quality leadership program. Hats off to this team of amazing volunteers and the top-notch **committee members** who work with them.

3) **Our Sponsors and Advisory Council** who have generously given their time, money, and talents to make this dream a reality.

If I can be the catalyst for these volunteers to power MCLP toward our greater vision, I will be happy. If I can serve when needed and lead when needed, I'll be following in Phani Aytam's footsteps and MCLP will have "many happy new years" serving our community.

Giving Thanks for all of you!
Sonya Mau
Executive Director

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