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Multicultural Leadership Program Looks Forward to Second Year of Success

Program to continue to develop diverse leaders to strengthen our community

McLean County's Multicultural Leadership Program (MCLP) welcomes its second class of participants this July 29th as they start a journey of self discovery and professional leadership development. This year's class is comprised of 25 individuals who bring with them diverse backgrounds in vocation, thought, age, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Orientation for class of 2011 is scheduled to be held at Unitarian Church on Emerson Street at 4 PM.

The program kicks off on Thursday and continues with leadership sessions scheduled over eight months where participants get involved in panel discussions and group exercises. These events provide instructions that span many core leadership competencies including public speaking, mentoring, crisis management and communication. Participants have a unique opportunity to hone their leadership skills while also growing personally. Benefits of the program extend far beyond the personal level; their employers benefit from having a larger pool of qualified leaders while the community is strengthened through the development of stronger, well-rounded leaders who are eager to serve.

"Although each participant's life ebbs and flow quite differently from one another, all are brought together in this time and space to play their unique part in shifting the sands of the communities in which they live. It's the differences that make us strong. It's that strength that will help us navigate any leadership storms that come our way" said Loretta Thirtyacre, MCLP president elect

Last year's class graduated 23 individuals in April 2010 at an event where friends, family and the community celebrated their accomplishments. The class not only attended program sessions but also became deeply involved in community projects in collaboration with the several local not for profits like Community Cancer Center, Boys and Girls Club, Mid Central Community Action and McLean County Extended Day Program. Thanks to the support received from the local community, MCLP is able to initiate four new comprehensive community projects. "Being a MCLP servant leader means you will commit and dedicate your time to serve first and make the conscious choice to lead second through inspiration." said Monica Williams – MCLP Class of 2010.

"MCLP is indeed an idea whose time has come. It is a win-win situation for everyone who is involved; the class participants, employers and community not for profits" said Deanna Frautschi, MCLP advisory board chair.

Corporate sponsors, including State Farm Bank, COUNTRY Financial and State Farm Insurance Companies, helped launched the program last year and continue to support the program financially. MCLP continues to search for both individual donors and sponsors. Additional details can be found on the program website at www.bn-mclp.org or check out MCLP on Facebook or Twitter.

Multi Cultural Leadership Program

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Our Mission: To develop diverse leaders in McLean County

www.bn-mclp.org