



News Release

Monday, June 29, 2009

LDA Now Accepting Applications for 2009-10 Class

The Leadership Development Academy (LDA) is seeking applicants with a demonstrated commitment to our community for its nine-month leadership program. The LDA is comprised of individuals, businesses and organizations interested in positively impacting local communities by providing a personal and professional empowerment experience for aspiring leaders.

The 2009-10 LDA program will begin in September 2009 with a two-day retreat and continue with one full-day session per month, from October to May. Facilitators from UW-Rock County employ a variety of learning strategies to explore and develop participants' leadership skills, including site visits, case studies, professional presentations, role-playing activities, multimedia presentations and dialogues with various groups. Additionally, each LDA participant helps to produce a collaborative project that addresses a specific community need. Many of these projects have made the stateline area a better place to live, work and play.

The LDA is a wonderful way for people who live or work in the Rock County area to build leadership skills; develop networks and strong community bonds; and learn about the challenges facing our communities and how to meet them. 136 people will have graduated from the LDA since during its six-year history. Many LDA graduates have assumed leadership roles in our communities and beyond, including Representative Mike Sheridan, Speaker of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Despite the LDA's ongoing success, it continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of the community. With that in mind, the LDA has entered into a partnership with the Stateline Leadership Academy (SLA), a popular leadership program that trained well over 100 future leaders in the stateline area during its history. This partnership means that the City of Beloit and the entire stateline area will be featured prominently in the 2009-10 LDA curriculum. This affiliation will undoubtedly strengthen the program by adding value for LDA participants, their employers, and our communities.

The LDA is open to **anyone** who has a desire to build his or her leadership skills and make our area a better place. Tuition for the program is \$850, and limited scholarship opportunities are available. Applications are available online at www.ldaraock.com. Completed applications must be received by July 31, 2009. For additional information, please contact Administrator Dan Cunningham at (608) 757-3160 or via email at danc@forwardjanesville.com.