

Civic Leadership Program Hosts Open Houses for Interested Candidates

North Jersey-- Applications are now being accepted for the Bergen LEADS Class of 2011. Bergen LEADS, an innovative, 10-month learning and leadership program for adults who live or work in Bergen County, is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County..

Under the guidance of former Bergen County Executive William “Pat” Schuber, the LEADS Seminar Director, participants are immersed in a stimulating curriculum that not only introduces them to topical issues of local importance, but also enables them to explore their leadership styles, enhance their leadership capacity and become meaningfully engaged in helping to solve some of the challenges facing Bergen County.

“A persistent question facing leaders in every sector is where will the next generation of leaders come from?,” says Janet Sharma, the Center’s executive director. “Bergen LEADS will help provide the answer by preparing acknowledged and aspiring leaders to take the helm in the years ahead.”

“Diversity of participants is essential,” continues Mrs. Sharma. Applicants are encouraged from business, nonprofit, civic and faith-based organizations and government agencies as well as from the community at large. Bergen LEADS seeks representation from the broad array of ethnic, racial, religious and socio-economic groups within Bergen County.

The application form for the Class of 2011 – which will begin meeting in September, 2010 - can be downloaded at www.bergenleads.org and is due by April 2. Each candidate must fill in a simple individual profile form and provide essay answers to specific questions.

. A series of free, Informational Open Houses for potential applicants will be held on the following dates:

- Tues., Feb. 16, Cole Schotz Meisel Forman & Leonard, Hackensack, 9:00 – 10:30 am
- Thurs., Feb. 18, TD Bank in Ramsey, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

- Tues., Feb. 23, Bergen Regional Medical Center, Paramus, 8:30 to 10:00 am
 - Thurs., Feb. 25, Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, 8:30 to 10:00 am
 - Wed., March 3, Matisse Chocolatier, Englewood, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 - Tues., March 9, Bergen Community College, Paramus, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 - Thurs., March 11, Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, Paramus, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
 - Tues., March 16, Just Desserts in Elmwood Park, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
 - Fri., March 19, Wells Fargo Private Bank, Paramus, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
- Co-sponsored by the Hispanic Business Council Scholarship Foundation,

Those interested in attending an Open House must pre-register. To register, contact Fanny Gomez at (201) 489-9454, x112 or e-mail fgomez@bergenvolunteers.org

“Bergen LEADS will help participants see the community – and themselves – through new eyes,” says Mrs. Sharma. “The curriculum is interactive, fast-paced and experiential. Field trips and site visits built into each seminar day will bring Bergen County to life.”

The culmination of the Bergen LEADS experience is that, ultimately, a network of knowledgeable, committed leaders will have the tools and connections to work together and solve some of Bergen County’s most pressing challenges.

Bergen LEADS also has an active alumni component – Alumni of Bergen LEADS (ABL) – which sponsors events, forums and other networking vehicles to keep LEADS alumni engaged and active in Bergen County.

For more information about Bergen LEADS, call 201-489-9454, x119, or email amissey@bergenvolunteers.org.

Founded by the Junior League in 1966, the mission of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating model volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

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