



38 South Potomac Street, Suite 2  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
phone: 301-393-5323  
info@leadershipwashingtoncounty.org  
www.leadershipwashingtoncounty.org

## **2012 – 2013 APPLICATION INFORMATION - CLASS 26**

### **Program Concept**

The Leadership Washington County program was established in 1987 under the name Leadership Hagerstown, in cooperation with the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, the organization became a separate 501 (c) 3 non-profit. The organization began as a response to a need for a common meeting ground of shared concern among leaders in all sectors of the community. A community's greatest assets are its people and that is certainly true in Washington County, MD. Graduate of Leadership Hagerstown and Leadership Washington County can be found as board members of non-profits, running for office, mentoring area youth, chairing events, managing projects, and helping their own organizations develop and prosper.

### **Program Goals**

The objective of Leadership Washington County is to develop and enhance community leadership by offering participants from diverse backgrounds a unique opportunity to explore, up close and personal, the challenges and issues facing the Washington County community. The Leadership program takes a select group of individuals from diverse backgrounds through an intense nine-month program during which they develop or strengthen their network of contacts and actively engage in issues around topics such as economic development, history, art and culture, education, religion, politics, and social service needs.

### **Impact**

In a very unique way, Leadership Washington County is helping to build a better, richer community by tapping into the talents, passions, and intellectual capital of the women and men who live and work in the Washington County community. The program's curriculum encourages critical thinking and creative problem solving. As a result of the experiential and cooperative learning opportunities, aspiring leaders return to their organizations more connected to the community overall and more knowledgeable about being a servant leader. Most significantly, participants in the program develop and increased interest in local issues, which often leads to increased civic engagement.

## Program Design

The Leadership Washington County program begins with a **mandatory two-night retreat, September 28-30** and continues with a series of sessions meeting one day each month from October through June. The curriculum for these program days features prominent speakers who address specific issues impacting Washington County, MD. Topics covered during the monthly sessions include Human Services, Education, Local Government, Business and Economic Development, Art & Religion, and the Cultural Heritage of Washington County. Each year there is a unique “hot topic” day addressing an issue of current importance in the community. Half of the program days are planned by the LWC board of directors and staff, and half are planned in small teams by the class members. To accomplish the objectives of the program, the full participation of each individual is required and attendance during program days must be free from personal and business responsibilities except for emergencies. Participants are allowed one full day’s absence.

## Selection Process

Leadership Washington County seeks potential leaders as well as individuals who have already attained leadership positions in the community and/or their place of employment. A group of approximately 30 participants is selected annually from the for-profit and non-profit business sectors as well as representatives from government, education, and religious organizations and other community groups. Nominations are welcome from the community, but not required for application to the program. A selection committee comprised of LWC board and committee members interviews all applicants and submits a list of selected applicants to the entire LWC board of directors for approval. Interviews are conducted during the month of April, and applicants are informed of their acceptance in early May. The class of 2012-2013 will be selected from applicants who have submitted the Application Form, Resume, Letter of Recommendation and deposit by March 9, 2012.

## Tuition

Tuition for the 2012-2013 program year is \$2,500 and may be paid by the individual or sponsoring organization. A \$50 non-refundable application fee (from personal funds) must be submitted with the completed application. If selected, you will be billed for the full tuition amount of \$2,500. The application fee represents your personal commitment to the program and is required of each applicant. The application fee is in addition to the tuition amount.

## Benefits of Graduation

The Leadership Washington County experience extends beyond graduation. Non-profits from the area look to graduates of the program to serve on their boards and to chair community projects. Graduates of Leadership Washington County enjoy many networking opportunities, the chance to mentor future class members, and the prestige of participating in an esteemed program with 25 years of success.