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New Look, Same Mission

Building upon our greatest assets – our successful program experience and our alumni – the leadership education we provide will become an even more critical factor in helping Wisconsin and the nation respond to the powerful social and economic changes that are occurring in communities.

We remain fully committed to our mission of Developing Leaders to Strengthen Communities throughout Wisconsin. We celebrate the success from the past 25 years, and we recognize that leadership also requires us to look to the future. Thanks to the input from so many of you, we are building on our success and wisely planning for the future to meet the needs of leaders in an ever-changing world.

Applications due November 1

Leadership Wisconsin seeks candidates who have a passion for making a difference, those who step up to leadership roles in their communities and those who know that one person can truly make a difference.

Apply Today! Call 608.263.0817 for an application or visit www.LeadershipWisconsin.org to download an application under "How to Apply."

...Recognized as one of the "exemplary community leadership programs in the nation."



Grounded in Tradition Open to the Future

*By Sarah Halstead
Board President
and JoAnn Stormer
Executive Director*

Over the past two years we have gone through an indepth review process and a concurrent analysis of our marketing and branding strategies. Feedback was sought from fellows, alumni, specialists in leadership training locally and from around the country, as well as from community members who have witnessed the impact of alumni. The feedback that we received confirmed that we have an excellent program that has been a positive life-changing experience for participants over the years, with participants who go back and benefit their communities and our state as a whole.

• 96% of alumni believe their experience was "very important" or "important" in increasing their leadership skills and abilities.

- 73% of alumni use the knowledge and skills they gained at least once a week. 50% use it daily.
- Almost all of our Alumni go on to be actively involved in leadership in their communities, organizations and businesses.

Success means more than just looking back and sitting on our laurels. It means looking forward and changing to respond to the needs of the future. In the words of John F. Kennedy, "one of the few things certain in life is change happens. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

We are living in the midst of powerful social and economic changes that are rapidly affecting the economy and altering the nature of the communities that we live and work in. Wisconsin and the nation are passing through a period of transition in

which quality leadership has become even more critical. New technologies, globalization of the economy and changing demographics are among a few of the factors that are blurring the boundaries of what we consider community – locally, nationally and globally. As the nature and scope of our communities continue to change and evolve, we remain committed to taking the steps needed to prepare leaders to confront and harness the challenge and speed of change that is occurring worldwide. Some unique opportunities were uncovered in the review process and concurrent analysis of marketing and branding strategies that could allow us to make our exceptional program even better.



Anniversary
Wisconsin
Rural Leadership
Program

Profiles in Leadership – Casey Langan



Casey Langan

Man of Passion

When his supervisor Jim Massey (Group IV) recommended he apply for the program, Casey Langan had no idea how his life would change. Langan recalled, “At the time I was still in my 20’s, so for me I likened it to going to graduate school.”

“My classmates were a microcosm of Wisconsin. Over the two years in what I called a ‘test tube’ situation, I got a sense for what motivates and inspires people. I learned to not always trust my first impressions, to never underestimate people and to recognize that everyone has a role to play in their community. Our international experience in China was truly eye-opening. While it was not my first pick of places to visit, I feel I am much better off for having seen this country that I believe will define this century, for better or worse. It also drove home something I already knew, it’s a big world out there and each of us can make a difference whether we are near or far from where we started.”

Langan found that he was no longer satisfied just reporting about public policy. He wanted to be part of the process. It inspired him to leave a journalism job for the rough and tumble world of state politics, noting “The breadth of issues that WRLP exposed me to was a good precursor to life as a legislative aide.”

Langan believes “The problems facing leaders on the local and state levels are not getting any less complex and rural Wisconsin continues to evolve. No matter what this program is called, I think every corner of our state needs the kind of well-rounded leader this program produces.”

Yet, Langan remains humble, keeping perspective about how his life has changed. “My job at the Farm Bureau requires me to draw on my past work experiences in journalism, agriculture and politics. I write for our member publication, produce a weekly radio spot, work with the media to ensure accurate coverage of agriculture, and am a registered lobbyist for Wisconsin’s largest grassroots trade organization for agriculture. In a society further removed from the farm, it’s increasingly important to convey why we do what we do in farming. I still find it strange that I went from being a kid milking cows and harvesting tobacco on my grandparents’ farm, to being a voice for a \$59.1 billion ag industry. I know that Leadership Wisconsin played a role in that transformation.”

The alumni association is busy finishing up the Alumni Directory

A special thanks goes to Michelle Zahn, (X) and Mary Maier, (former staff member), for working hard to contact everyone and updating the information in the directory. If you haven’t returned your information or returned Michelle or Mary’s phone calls, please do so this week so we can get the directory out to all our Alumni Association members. Also if you have not paid your alumni dues, send those checks tomorrow so you will get your directory as soon as it is available. Contact me if you need any information. Your Alumni Association dues help to make the alumni directory possible. The Leadership Wisconsin (WRLP) Alumni

is planning an Alumni Trip for the week of February 6-14 or February 20-28 of 2010. We plan to explore the Immigration Issue from both sides of the issue on both sides of the southern border of the US, with frequent exploration into the northern portions of Mexico. Please email Michelle at thesoapladyj@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in this trip. As always we are working hard to provide opportunities for the alumni to stay active in the program. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have suggestions for the Alumni Association, martha@ccstomah.com. Martha Klatt, Board President, (XI).

Resource Development Choices that Work for You

Did you know that we have made it easier for you to support the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program now known as Leadership Wisconsin? We recognize the importance of choice and donor intent. Here’s a simple model.

There are basically two paths you can follow:

1. Supporting a Leadership Fellow in the program as a Fellow Sponsor.
2. Supporting the overall program operations costs.

Given your preferences, you can then contribute in a variety of ways, now and in the future.

Thinking in the “Now” consider...

- A periodic or annual gift to Emerging Leaders Fund – our annual fund that supports our ongoing operations.
- Joining the Circle of Leaders – our monthly “Sustainers” group. These people are committed to routinely providing a gift of support to maintain daily activities.
- Providing Seminar Support – choose your favorite one.

Thinking in the “Future” consider...

- A gift to the Endowment Fund.
- Joining our Legacy Society. These people have declared a planned gift that will support Leadership Wisconsin into the future.

No matter how small or large your gift is, we know each of our supporters gives for a particular reason and in a certain way. We are ever grateful for your support in developing leaders to strengthen communities. If you have any questions or other options you’d like us to consider, feel free to contact us at 608.263.0817 or Linda.Murray@ces.uwex.edu

Visit our website, www.LeadershipWisconsin.org to make an online donation.

Group XIII

National Seminar – Washington, DC – March 14-20, 2009

Thanks to these Seminar Sponsors – American Transmission Company, Xcel Energy and WPPI Energy

An integral part of this Seminar was a Small Group assignment. Our four groups each had our own topic: Foreign Policy, Global Climate Change, Alternative/Renewable Energy Approaches or Oil Supply & Demand. Consisting of 7 people each, the small groups navigated their way through Washington D.C. in order to attend four appointments with national and international organizations concerning their topic. Each of the four appointments represented a strong and vastly different opinion when compared to the others.

When everyone came back together, the groups organized presentations designed to inform and influence our legislator about their particular issue. Throughout this process, it became evident that the information from each small group was not only interconnected to the others but was also integral to seeing the entire big picture.

Here are a few of the things the participants had to say about those meetings:

- I found it amazing that people with power believe that Global Climate Change is real and are planning to do something about it.
- The four angles of our excellent topics all were inter-related, and nothing was as simple as I initially believed.



- I learned that I can make a difference.
- I gained a better understanding of the importance of leaders listening to each other – and to us.
- Each person we met with really wanted to hear what we had to say. It was empowering – they willingly gave us so much of their time.



Technology Seminar, Madison, June 16-19, 2009

Thanks to these Seminar Sponsors – Badgerland Financial and Foremost Farms USA

By Marcia Haase, Group XIII Fellow, Beaver Dam

Remember those episodes of Star Trek when the computers acquire superior intelligence and take over control? While that remains science fiction, the concept of “singularity” predicts that computers will have the equivalent of human intelligence by 2020. Cool. Incredible. Scary?

This seminar exposed Group XIII to new technology in many areas. We learned about patenting and licensing intellectual property,

data mining, aligning information technology with business goals, the functions of the Wisconsin Technology Council, new energy technology, nanotechnology, health care technological advances, biotechnology and stem cell research.

At her presentation on Ethical and Policy Issues Arising from Modern Biotechnology, Professor of Law and Bioethics, Alta Charo posed the query: “Is it right or wrong to mess with the nature of nature?” Should we create the super virus just so we can analyze it to formulate a potential

Calendar

- Nov 1**
Application deadline for Group XIV
- Nov 11-13**
Global Economics Seminar, Hudson
- Nov 13-14**
International Orientation, Hudson
- Nov 18**
Annual Board Meeting
- Jan 6-8**
Diversity Seminar, Fox Valley

antitode? What about using human embryos for research? Is any kind of cloning ethical? It was very thought provoking and encouraged lively discussions within our Leadership Wisconsin cluster.

We finished this seminar with a presentation on the internet and its many forms of social and business interaction. Our hands-on creation of a Wiki page was fun and frustrating at the same time. Some burning questions: If I tweet and tweetin with my tweeps on twitter, will I become a twitterholic and be in twubble with my sweetheart? Will my friends still build on my Facebook wall or blog on my Wiki? Will my Blackberry integrate with my RSS feed or will a little man jump out of my I-phone yelling YA-HOO!! Yimeny Crickets! Pour me a Nano-Schlager!

Alumni in the News

Diane Amera, (XI) accepts position with USDA in Washington DC as an Insurance Management Specialist.

Christine Berry, (XIII) named new Director for the Langlade Community Development Corporation.

Pat Carlson-Congdon, (IX) is a veteran singer/songwriter/musician with The RiverBenders. The Big River Radio Wave, a unique music and variety show from Alma, aired on Wisconsin Public Radio in August featuring music by The RiverBenders.

Jeanne Carpenter, (XII) Founded "*Wisconsin Cheese Originals*"

Chuck Dallas, (VI) was awarded the Distinguished Citizen of the Year award by the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations!

Sally Feeney, (XII) ran for 2nd supervisor in the Town of Magnolia.

Andrea Garvey, (XII) coordinated the 14th Annual Prairie Days Parade.

Sarah Halstead, (X) Board President, The Country Today, "*Support Leadership Program*"

Daphne Holterman, (III) honored at the World Dairy Expo as this year's Dairy Woman of the Year. Congratulations!

Daphne Holterman, (IV), **Becky Lezvow**, (IX), Featured in State Journal article "*Farmers Expect to take the bad with the good*"

Bryce Larson, (V) Spoke at local retired teacher's meeting about his International Seminar experience with Group 12 to India.

Becky Lezvow, (IX) and her husband received the honorary State FFA Degree at the annual State FFA Convention. Congratulations!

Pete Knigge, (I) and **Daphne Holterman**, (III) were recently featured in

UW GROW, Wisconsin's Magazine for Life Sciences.

Al Ott, (I) received the Communication and Leadership Award from Toastmasters.

John Smart, (XI) welcomes his second exchange student. Rahim, from Tajikistan and was a guest on "*The Week in Review*" show on WPR's Ideas Network.

Rhonda Strebel, (XIV) **Executive Director**, started the Shawano County Rural Health Initiative, receiving the 2009 UW Extension and UW Colleges Chancellor's Wisconsin Idea Award. Congratulations!

Dave Visser, (XII) greets Governor Jim Doyle after he addressed school board leaders on the final day of the annual convention.

Nodji Van Wychen, (II) recently recognized by the Tomah Rotary Club and honored with the "*Service Above Self*" award. Congratulations!

William Von Rohr, (XI) *The Journal Sentinel*, STIMULUS, Spend all that money, but then what next?

Alumni Forever In Our Memories...

Sherin Bowen, (I) passed away March 20, 2009. She is deeply missed by many whose lives she touched. She shared with many that the road that led her to her life's work and passion was her WRLP experience.

John Drier, (IX) passed away September 1, 2009. His open heart and generosity made John new friends wherever he went around the world and earned him professional admirers among colleagues, students and even casual acquaintances.

Others: Board Member **Rick Daluge** was honored with this year's Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding support, help and guidance to agricultural education and the FFA. Congratulations!
Larry Swalheim, former WRLP Board member featured in *In Business Madison*, April 2009 issue.



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