

WisconsinLeader

annual report

University of Wisconsin-Extension
Cooperative Extension
2008-2009

2008-2009

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Leadership
Wisconsin

MISSION

Developing leaders to strengthen communities.

VALUES

Building Community

- Growing diverse networks, collaborations and connections.

Encouraging Learning

- Achieving personal growth and professional development.

Fostering Understanding

- Respecting diverse points-of-view.
- Broadening the sense of community.
- Experiencing and applying a global perspective.

Acting with Integrity

- Enabling personal and professional development based on ethical behavior.
- Demonstrating a commitment to excellence.
- Accepting the challenge to act.

The Leadership Wisconsin mission is brought to life every day in our state through our alumni.

Building community + Encouraging Learning + Fostering Understanding + Acting with Integrity = Leadership. It appears to be a simple formula but developing leaders to strengthen communities is – intensive leadership model that we have used for over 25 years. Yet, how do we know that we are effective? How do we measure our impact?

That's just what we did this past year when we conducted our in-depth review process. We learned that over 96% of our graduates indicate that their experience was very important to important in their development. They continue to use the knowledge and skills they learned daily and weekly. These men and women leave our intensive Leadership development experience and go back to their communities, their organizations, their businesses and make a difference.



This review process went on to challenge us to make one of the most significant moves ever – the implementing a new brand that would more instantly describe who we are and what we do. This is a remarkable time in our history; a pivotal time of movement away from what was familiar to what has come to be. And we recognize that for some this change may be hard and we assure you that even though our brand – our name has changed we remain committed to our mission, our work of *Developing Leaders to Strengthen Communities*.

We are confident that the ongoing transformation of our brand will enable Leadership Wisconsin to capitalize on new opportunities, responding to the challenges of leadership development for all of Wisconsin's communities.

Thanks to our supporters, thanks to YOU, Leadership Wisconsin remains committed to creating the very best leaders. With the ongoing support of our dedicated community of alumni, partners and supporters, we are confident that Leadership Wisconsin will continue to enhance the quality of leadership and life in Wisconsin communities in immeasurable ways.


For Leadership Wisconsin, the future is now.

Respectfully,

Sarah Halstead, Board President, Group X
JoAnn Stormer, Executive Director



Anniversary
Wisconsin
Rural Leadership
Program



2008-2009 Highlights

Group XII fellows met in Minocqua July 15-18 for their **Environmental Issues Seminar**. Fellows examined environmental issues and the impact on our state's natural resources.

Over 125 people attended the **Legacy of Leadership celebration**, July 19, 2008 in Wausau recognizing the 34 new graduates of Group XII and Group II in recognition of their 20th anniversary of graduation.

The **Outstanding Alumni Award** was presentation to **George Johnson**, Group VI. He is known throughout Wisconsin for his 35+ years as the hospital administrator in Reedsburg. Alumni also recognized for their outstanding leadership were Daphne Holterman (Group III), Ruth Lindegarde (Group VIII), Norm Monsen (Group VII), Marty Stanton (Group IX).

The **2008 Russ O'Harrow Award** was presented to **Gerry Campbell** by Chancellor David Wilson and Charles O'Harrow, whose father was the first WRLP Board President. Gerry has served WRLP for over 25 years as seminar chair, executive director, board member, presenter and much more during his illustrious career at UWEX and UW-Madison.

Group XIII began with their 1st seminar focused on **State Government**, July 29 - Aug 1, in Madison. Thanks to seminar sponsor American Transmission Company. "It's a big responsibility to make democracy work," commented Senator Bob Jauch, and the question you should be asking is, "How do we encourage citizens to become more engaged?"

Leadership Seminar for Group XIII was held in Trego, September 16-19. "This seminar really has been a huge help to me in so many ways. First, taking time out to sit back, reflect, and really listen to what others are saying, is something I do not practice very often."

Over 200 people opened our **25th anniversary year of "Celebrating Silver - Going for Gold"** in the WI Dells at our gala event on Nov 1.

Special 25th anniversary presentation of the Russ O'Harrow Award for Outstanding Service was presented to **Mary Maier and Asye Somersan** by Chancellor David Wilson. Mary served as a key member of the WRLP staff for over 18 years. Asye served WRLP as director, board member, seminar chair and presenter during her distinguished career at the UWEX and UW-Madison.

Urban Issues Seminar, November 11-14, Milwaukee. "Freshwater is the world's "new oil," and with the Great Lakes, a 5th of the world's freshwater is in our backyard; Wisconsin is the envy of many states and nations. On Lake Michigan's shores, Milwaukee seems a natural place to specialize in water quality, quantity and security. The area is home to a cluster of about 120 water-related businesses and hoping to attract more. "We're trying to make Milwaukee the Silicon Valley of water," said Jim Lubner of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Great Lakes WATER Institute."



Leadership in Community Context Seminar, January 6-9, 2009, Tomahawk. We discussed listening skills, conflict management, and the relationship of leaders, individuals and communities.

National Seminar, March 14-20, Washington, D.C. This session focused on national energy issues. Thanks to Seminar Sponsors - American Transmission Company, Xcel Energy and WPPI Energy.

Technology Innovation - How Is It Impacting Society? Understanding the implications of technology, June 16-19, 2009, Madison. "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 Class XIII to new technology in many areas."

Moving forward - thankfully

At the end of our 25th anniversary year, it's important to take the time to mention the significance of our :

- **Visionary advocates** - those early community and organizational leaders who saw the need, fueled the development, and wrangled the supporters to the fledgling organization;
- **Long-time supporters** - those who understand the value of developing leaders that go on to lead their organizations and communities;
- **Decided donors and sponsors** - those who have expressed their support through time, talent, and treasure;
- **Engaged learners** - participants who took this magnificent opportunity to learn with other emerging leaders, building expertise and networks across industries, states, and nations on their journey to become "statesmanlike" leaders;
- **Capable leaders** - alumni who have found ways to apply in their personal and professional lives the leadership presence in Wisconsin and beyond.

As we move forward into the next 25 years, the program will continue to evolve as the needs of Wisconsin change, remaining true to our mission. Be a part of our legacy.

If you live in the "Now", consider:

- Emerging Leaders Fund - unrestricted annual fund that supports ongoing operations
- Circle of Leaders - our monthly "sustainers" group, people committed to consistent support
- Seminar support - choose your favorite seminar or generally support them all

If you prefer a "Future" focus, consider:

- Endowment Fund - as an annual, major, or planned gift
- Legacy Society - declaring a planned gift for future program support