



Dear Leadership Wisconsin/WRLP Alumnus:

Spring is finally here – at least it is in Madison! Apparently the annual March snowstorm hit the state while we were with Group XVI on their International Seminar in Kazakhstan. It seems I always miss that final snowstorm due to the seminar; however, this time we didn't escape the cold since Kazakhstan is similar if not colder in temperatures. The seminar was an excellent educational and cultural experience for the leaders. In this newsletter we have included some photos and a general overview that we sent to media across the state. In May we will share the writing produced by several of the Group XVI Fellows so you can hear about the seminar in their voices. If you know any of the Group XVI Fellows I encourage you to ask them to schedule a presentation about the seminar with a group that you are affiliated with. This gives them the opportunity to share what they learned (which results in additional ah-has for them as they prepare the presentation), and it helps to increase visibility for Leadership Wisconsin. We have not determined the international destination for Group XVII. In the next few months we will be sending out a call for proposals so if you have international connections that might generate a unique and high quality educational experience send me an email so I make sure to let you know when proposals are due (sarah.schlosser@ces.uwex.edu).

Group XVI has one final seminar this May. The issue is Agriculture and we will be in Green and Dane County for the seminar. We are excited to be including Yogi Brown's (Group VIII) Sunburst Dairy as one of our Thursday farm tours. Our learning objectives are for the fellows to:

- gain a greater understanding of Wisconsin agriculture trends,
- examine the business side of agriculture (exploring the decisions producers make and the factors that drive those decisions such as policy, consumer, economy and technology),
- look at specific examples of value-added agriculture and how they contribute to the Wisconsin economy, and
- Discuss current confined animal feedlot legislation and regulations through the eyes of various stakeholders.

I am excited to "return home" during this seminar. I spent almost seven years in Green County working at the University of Wisconsin-Extension office. Many of our contacts are a result of those connections and the help of Agriculture Agent Mark Mayer (Group VII).

We have a number of other exciting things happening in the next month and a half. On Monday the 25th we are holding the second in a three-part workshop series on "Communication Skills for Leadership Success". The series is being conducted in partnership with Wisconsin Counties Association. Make sure to read the article that talks about this great workshop being led by alumnus Jeff Ebel (Group XV). You can still sign up and walk-ins are welcome! In May we will be holding the Group XVII Orientation. This is the first time the orientation will be held via distance technologies. The group will get a chance to learn about the technologies we will be

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Alumni News

Congratulations to Group XIII Alumnus Claussen for her first place win in the category of the North American Journalists annual writing competition.

Email us at LeadershipWisconsin@ces.uwex.edu and we will put your news in the next Newsletter!

Calendar

May 11-13th – Group XVI Agriculture Seminar

May 30th – Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

June 6th – Become a Master Workshop; Presented in Partnership with Wisconsin Counties Association

using in their program cycle, including: online brown bags to connect them between seminars, online personal profiles to help them track their goals and learning progress, a web-based course site that will provide them with additional learning materials, and a Google+ Community that allows them to discuss topics and connect throughout the two year program. On June 25th they will have a Picnic Social in order for them and their families to meet in person and start building important relationships. Alumni are welcome at that picnic and more information will be included in the May newsletter. We are looking for one or more sponsors for the picnic meal. If you have an interest let Director of Development Sterling Lynk know by emailing him at sterling.lynk@ces.uwex.edu.

Have a wonderful Spring and don't forget to share with us your exciting news so that we can include it in upcoming newsletters!

Sincerely,
Sarah Schlosser
Executive Director

Still Time to Register!

Leadership Wisconsin Communication Skills for Leadership Success

As many of you know we are partnering with the Wisconsin Counties Association to host a three-session workshop series – **Communication Skills for Leadership Success**. We were so excited to have over 45 people join us for the first session, and we can't wait to see what the other two have in store. The sessions are held in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn. You can attend any combination of sessions. They will run from 9:30am to 12:30pm. If you are interested put the final two dates on your calendar –

- April 25: Using Body Language to Influence and Lead
- June 6: Become a Master Networker

You can still REGISTER FOR THE APRIL 25th WORKSHOP

Using Body Language to Influence and Lead

[REGISTER](#)

Join Jeff Ebel, President of Midwest Wealth Ventures and Group XV alum, in this engaging workshop that helps leaders use more than their ears to "listen" to what people are saying. Have you ever thought to yourself that the words you are hearing aren't the full story? Learn how to read the body language of others in order to better understand what they are communicating. A member of Toastmasters for 18 years, Jeff has been a frequent guest speaker for the Milwaukee Career Tools workshop and the Architectural Woodwork Institute's Speaker Bureau Training, helping professionals hone their communication skills and use body language to convey their message. With Jeff's help you can uncover how your body language might be sabotaging the message you want to communicate. Workshop participants will have opportunities to practice reading and using body language to strengthen this important leadership communication skill.

Leadership Wisconsin Delegation Visits Kazakhstan



Wisconsin Counties Association

Point Holiday Inn, 9:30am-

(Register at

<http://www.wicounties.org/events>
listing)

June 17th – FY16Q4 Board

June 25th – Group XVII Picnic

Location TBD

**OPEN TO ALUMNI who want
new Fellows**

(more information and registration

July 4th – Office Closed for

July 16th – Legacy of Leadership

Celebration & Group XVI Graduation

Great Dane, Wausau,

OPEN TO ALL ALUMNI

(registration opens in April)

Support

Alumni are our key supporters because they have experienced first-hand the Leadership Wisconsin Signature Program. When you support Leadership Wisconsin you can have your gift directed towards the Signature Program, Provide Support for Fellows, Growing the Fund, and/or the Area of Great

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Leadership Wisconsin

610 Langdon St., Rm 300

Madison, WI 53703

Monthly Motivational Quotes

"People buy into the leader before they buy into the vision."
John Maxwell



Twenty Leadership Wisconsin delegates visited Kazakhstan this March. The delegation included members of Leadership Wisconsin Group XVI, program alumni, staff and two educational co-chairs. The delegation focused on developing intercultural competencies, citizen diplomacy and leadership skills in critical thinking and valuing diversity.

Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world (by area), at slightly less than four times the size of Texas. Bordered by China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the country is part of the former Soviet Union. Since their independence they have focused on developing a cohesive national identity, expanding and developing markets for the country's energy resources, diversifying the economy, developing a multiparty parliament, and advancing political and social reform.



The Leadership Wisconsin delegation had an opportunity to see important cultural sites such as former USSR women's prison camp, Alzhir. They participated in festivities for Nauryz – a national holiday celebrated on the spring equinox and marking the Kazakh New Year. And they toured rural, urban, private, and public schools and universities to learn about the investment Kazakhstan is making in

Leadership Resource of the

Check out this article by the Business Review on "The Country's Boldest Business Leaders"

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concepts and experiences to learn about the involvement Kazakhstan is making in education. The country's newest generation has been charged by President Nursultan Nazarbayev with being tri-lingual – Kazakh, Russian and English or Chinese.



Delegates experienced the hospitality of staying with a local family for a few nights. Several delegates had an opportunity to go with their host family to the polling place as they voted in a regional election. Others visited their family's places of worship, including local mosques and Russian Orthodox cathedrals. The homestay was an opportunity to experience life in Kazakhstan, build friendships and connections, and get outside of their cultural comfort zone.

The delegation to Kazakhstan was led by Leadership Wisconsin staff and two educational co-chairs. Both chairs are currently employed with University of Wisconsin-Extension. Gary Kirking proposed the seminar destination and is an alumnus of Leadership Wisconsin. He is the Community Resource Development Educator in Juneau County where he runs a county leadership program. Gary has traveled and worked in Kazakhstan on the development of a pilot rural business center. He has hosted numerous international delegations including six from Kazakhstan. His co-chair, Julie Keown-Bomar, is Director for University of Wisconsin-Extension's Northwest Region. Julie has a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology and a Masters in International/Global Studies. She and her family lived in Kazakhstan for eight months.

The two-week international seminar comes at the end of Leadership Wisconsin's two-year comprehensive leadership development program. The seminar's purpose is to experience alternative economic, political, cultural and social systems; explore leadership from a different cultural point of view; and gain new perspectives on significant issues facing societies around the world. Prior groups have had seminars in Tanzania, Morocco, India, Brazil, China, Nicaragua and other countries. Leadership Wisconsin has been developing leaders across the state since 1982. Many alumni have gone on to make additional international connections after their seminar experience. As our world continues to globalize, it becomes increasingly important for leaders to have a variety of cultural experiences so they can be more effective at leading in diversifying communities and multinational companies.

Greg Forbes Siegman



Greg Forbes Siegman is the founder of The 11-10-02 Foundation. Now in its 18th year, the organization funds grants and college scholarships. For his efforts, Greg was honored at Princeton University as 'one of America's top social entrepreneurs under 40' and has been featured by media such as *Volunteer Leadership* and *Good Morning America*. He is co-author of *The Silhouette Man*. The condensed edition for students, *The First Thirty*, was NSD Leadership Conference Multicultural Relations Book of the Year. In his speech, he will look at seemingly small, oftentimes overlooked moments in which we can extend our impact, emerge as leaders and create a lasting legacy. For Greg's full bio, please visit www.GregForbes.com/bio

Legacy of Leadership

Saturday, July 16
Great Dane
2305 Sherman Street, Wausau
2:00- 7:00 pm

[Registration](#) is now Open!

Alumni Survey to Inform Development of Online Networking Tools

Leadership Wisconsin is working with Shreenita Ghosh, a doctoral student in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Mass Communication. As part of her Community Organizing course conducted by Professor and University of Wisconsin-Extension Specialist Randy Stoecker, Shreenita is helping us to examine the communication and networking needs of alumni. The project consists of determining how alumni are already using online networking, which tools and platforms are being used, and the potential interest and value of a Leadership Wisconsin online networking platform. Leadership Wisconsin already has a Facebook page, Twitter account, and LinkedIn group. At this time we plan to keep all of these in place; however, we want to improve their value, increase their use, integrate them as necessary, and find others ways to support your networking. In the next few weeks you will receive an email asking you to complete a Qualtrics-based survey. If you engage in online networking or might have an interest in doing so, please watch for that email and share your experiences and thoughts with us. The survey results will drive our next steps and solutions to supporting your online networking needs.

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