



News Release

Welcome Leadership Charlevoix County Class of 2017-2018

Leadership Charlevoix County is excited to announce its newest class for 2017-2018. The program is entering its sixth year as a comprehensive training experience for community members seeking to play a more active role in leadership and their communities. The program creates community awareness, networking opportunities, and focuses on leadership skill development through an educational and hands-on curriculum.

The 17-member class started with an orientation meeting at Boyne Mountain Resort, where they met each other and potential mentors. Their first class session is a two-day overnight retreat to Beaver Island on September 10-11, followed by one all-day class every month until graduation in May 2018. Class topics include Connecting with Your Government; Ethics, Culture & Philanthropy; Building Your Toolbox; Economic Development; Education Today; Health & Human Services; Environmental and Natural Resources; and "Where do we go from here?" Putting newly learned skills to use.

Recent program graduate Ashley Cousens, executive director of the Boyne Area Chamber, says "Leadership Charlevoix County is a great way to learn more about what services and resources the county has to offer. For me, the value was not only in the information provided, but also in the opportunity for self-reflection. How often do we carve out time to reflect on our lives and careers, without being prompted? This program requires self-reflection and as a result many participants experienced important transformations throughout the nine months."

This year's class is a diverse group of emerging leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds, locations and industries. LCC welcomes the following participants to the class: Brenda Bingham of The Insurance Shop, Michael Bourque of Fox Charlevoix, Ford, Gretchen Bush of The Spa at Boyne Mountain, Stephanie Butterbrodt of EJ, Robert Crick of the City of East Jordan, Syrina Dawson of Boyne City Police Department, Alicia Drogt of Landscape Logic, David Florenski of East Jordan Public Schools, Kelsie King-Duff of Boyne City Main Street, Darrell Lawson of LexaMar, Ryan Novotny of Charlevoix County Transit, Jessica Puroll of Chemical Bank, Andrea Seese of Grandvue Medical Care Facility, Lori Taylor – Blitz of the Beaver Island Historical Society, Carly Thompson of the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce, Josh Todd of Charlevoix Screen Master, and Benjamin Way of EJ.

Leadership Charlevoix County is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that was founded by the Charlevoix, Boyne City and East Jordan Chambers of Commerce. For more information, call any of those chambers or visit www.leadershipcharlevoixcounty.com.