

Building leadership one person at a time

Leadership Northwest Indiana graduating its 1,000th member

TIMES STAFF

The Leadership Northwest Indiana Program has been building the leadership capacity of the region for 30 years.

LNI operates two classes annually, totaling approximately 100 participants. The latest class, LNI34, began meeting in February and will continue its educational journey until December.

Among the participants of this class is the 1,000th graduate of the LNI Program, which continues to grow and develop as an innovative program for Northwest Indiana.

Through a structured 10-month program, participants learn more about the characteristics, resources, needs and potential in Northwest Indiana. Class



Indiana Executive Director Keith Kirkpatrick, left, leads members of the latest class, LNI34, in an activity to help them get acquainted during their first session, "A Community That Appreciates the Arts and Celebrates Life," at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster.

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members are challenged to increase their knowledge and gain valuable new perspectives through interaction with business and community leaders. The curriculum is developed from the information provided in the Quality of Life Indicators Report published by the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council along with other timely issues.

All-day sessions are held monthly, with

a graduation luncheon to close the program in June and December. In an effort to acquaint participants with as much of Northwest Indiana as possible, session locations vary and each session includes discussions/presentations, hands-on activities, and tours.

Learn more about the Leadership Northwest Indiana Program by visiting www.leadershipnwi.org.

For your information

Leadership Northwest Indiana's LNI34 class includes:

- George Baranowski, insurance and financial agent and Lake Central School Board member;
- Nicole Barker, executive director of Save the Dunes;
- Jena Bellezza, Marketing & Community Relations director of Indiana Parenting Institute;
- Sharon Bennett, commander for Lake County Sheriff's Department;
- Julie Boettger, director of Food & Nutrition Services for School City of Hammond;
- Kelechukwu Brnfre, education opportunity specialist at Purdue University Calumet;
- Maggie Byrne, grant specialist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources;
- Lisa Carpenter, manager of JAK's Warehouse;
- Tom Cath, director of Career Center at Valparaiso University;
- Monica Conrad, attorney with Hodges & Davis;
- Carl Cuttone, director of Enrollment Management at Calumet College of St. Joseph;
- Nichole DeMarlo, director of communications for Greater NWI Association of REALTORS;
- Elena Dwyre, CEO of Campagna Academy;
- Jack Eskin, regional planner with NIRPC;
- Robert Farmer, executive director of Webb House, Inc.;
- Maria Galka, vice president of Fund Development for Visiting Nurse Association of Porter County;
- Amy Gross, clerk-treasurer for Town of Cedar Lake;
- Pat Hawrot, clerk-treasurer for Town of Dyer;
- Christina Herrera, Marketing Operations manager for Horseshoe Casino;
- T.J. Holsen, senior relationship manager for Lake Area United Way;
- Anika Johnson, special assistant to the mayor for the City of Gary;
- Nicole Keith, attorney with Rubino, Ruman, Cosmer & Polen;
- Ryan Kelly, vice president of Planning & Design for Holladay Properties;
- Marisa Kwiatkowski, investigative reporter for The Times Media Company;
- Suzy LaBarge, financial bank manager for Citizens Financial Bank;
- Danny Lackey, coordinator of Diversity Programming for the Merrillville School Corporation;
- Brandi Lewis, Home Visitation Services director for Dunebrook Inc.;
- Lauren May, communication manager at NiSource;
- Ralph Miller, vice president of the Cedar Lake Town Council;
- Angela Moore, marketing director for Community Healthcare System;
- Mary Ann Nowak, corporate affairs specialist at NiSource;
- Dimitri Olympidis, field consultant for Family Express;
- Janet Reed, Lake County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service director;
- Cynthia Roberts, interim dean at Purdue University North Central;
- Kimberly Robinson, Gary Common Council member;
- Regan Robinson, associate minister at St. Timothy Community Church;
- Janet Seabrook, CEO of Community HealthNet;
- Mary Shanks, director of business managers at Purdue University Calumet;
- Chuck Smith, Advertising Sales manager at The Times Media Company;
- Jennifer Smith, public affairs advisor for Enbridge Energy;
- Sandra Hall Smith, assistant director at Indiana University Northwest;
- Rick Sorla, vice chancellor at Ivy Tech Community College;
- Dawn Thostesen, executive director of finance at Ivy Tech Community College;
- Ty Warner, executive director at NIRPC;
- Sandi Weindling, director of Marketing & Development at Dunes Learning Center;
- Trevor Wells, member/attorney at Miller Wells, PLLC;
- Rachael Wright, director of Program Services for Boys & Girls Clubs of NWI