

JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

JEFFERSON CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2020



Civic Leadership Academy Cohort 2019

**Wanted:
Dynamic, emerging,
high-potential leaders.
Apply Now.**

Dynamic. Interactive. Collaborative.

Dear Civic-minded Erie County Resident,

We put a premium on ensuring that those three words guide the experience had by all graduates of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy, and as a part of this Academy, you will develop your leadership skills through learning, which we believe will inspire action.

You will get to know the region in which you live better through an examination of the form and function of Erie County's various government. You will also get a close-up look at Erie's connection to Harrisburg and the rest of the Keystone State by meeting with state officials. And you will work together to produce positive changes that will shape the region's future for decades to come.

In 2020, the Leadership Academy will again offer an optional track, the Raimy Fellowship Program, to participants who wish to combine practical civic engagement with leadership theory.

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Our common vision here is to make this region a better place for all of its citizens.

We look forward to sharing that vision with you.

Sincerely,

Angela Beaumont, M.A.
Director of Operations



Michelle Melcher Knight, M.S.W.
Program Coordinator



Table of Contents

About the Jefferson Educational Society.....	2
About the Civic Leadership Academy.....	3
About the Raimy Fellowship Program.....	3
Group Action Project	4
2020 Schedules.....	5
Employer Return on Investment, Tuition, Scholarship & Payment.....	6
Time Commitment/Raimy Fellows.....	7
Application Requirements	8
Interview and Admission /Selection Process	
Alumni Network	9
Classes of 2015/2016/2017/2018/2019	10

About the Jefferson Educational Society

As a nonprofit think tank, the Jefferson Educational Society of Erie was founded in 2008 to promote civic enlightenment and drive community progress for the Erie region through the study, research, and discussion of ideas and events that have influenced the human condition. The Jefferson ensures the preservation of the past for study and examines key lessons to better build the future of our region, and through the exploration of contemporary issues facing our region and nation, the Jefferson serves as a platform of discussion and a vehicle for progress to enhance the civic future of the Erie region.

The Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy

Launched in 2015, the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy prepares Erie professionals, ages 25 to 45, for meaningful, fulfilling, and impactful engagement in their community by providing a dynamic and unique environment that fosters teamwork, growth, and learning through a transformative experience for those seeking to be change-agents for their community.

Through the Civic Leadership Academy, participants examine the inner workings of local governments to emerge as civic leaders capable of effecting positive change for Erie County's future with an understanding of Erie's past and present. With a close look at Erie's economic, entrepreneurial, and innovation ecosystems, the Civic Leadership Academy informs mindful leaders of Erie's post-industrial landscape while exposing them to global ideas that can be applied to Erie County's overall developmental health and well-being.



Civic Leadership Academy 2017 cohort in Harrisburg during the retreat.

The Raimy Fellowship Program

The Raimy Fellowship Program offers alumni and current participants in the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy an enhanced opportunity to hone their leadership skills. In addition to participating in all of the activities of the 2020 JCLA program, those who seek to be designated Raimy Fellows will also attend several sessions in leadership training designed to ground emerging leaders in leadership theory focused on ethical, practical civic engagement. As the culmination of their work, linking their research to a previous or the overall JCLA group action project, Fellows will produce a research-driven essay or report that will be published in the Raimy Ideas collection.

Those who complete the program will be designated Raimy Fellows and will receive an additional certificate, potentially have the Jefferson Educational Society publish their project essay, and join the facilitator and others on a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit several policy institutes and research foundations, to enjoy a tour of Capitol Hill, and to meet with federal government representatives.



Andrew Roth, Ph.D.
Raimy Fellowship
Program Facilitator

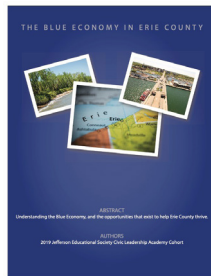
Group Action Project: AI and the Future of Work in Erie County

As part of the Academy, participants develop their leadership skills by engaging in research to address critical issues facing their community. During each seven-month-long Civic Leadership Academy, the cohort applies the lessons learned from the program to a group-action project and presents the results upon graduation.

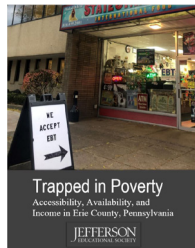
After careful consideration of various topics, the topic for this year was chosen by the Civic Leadership Academy alumni to address the **AI and the Future of Work in Erie County**. The research, form, and execution of the project, however, is at the discretion of the cohort.

Past projects include:

Blue Economy: The 2019 JCLA cohort explored the Blue Economy and Erie County's relation and place in the watershed as Pennsylvania's only county touching the Great Lakes. The goals of this project were to educate residents and visitors of Erie County about the Blue Economy and vast opportunities that exist in the areas of science, infrastructure and economic development.



Poverty report: In 2018, JCLA participants applied the lessons learned from the program to a group action project focused on Poverty in Erie County, which yielded the creation of a Community Poverty Index. This project identified and addressed structural impediments to elevating the economic status of people living in poverty by examining a selection of resources in low-income, middle-income, and high-income ZIP codes across Erie County.

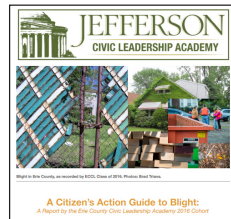


#ErieOpioidProject: In addressing the opioid epidemic, the 2017 JCLA cohort produced the media awareness campaign, *Many Stories, One Story*, to change the conversation about addiction from one of demonizing stigma to one of encouragement and compassion. The

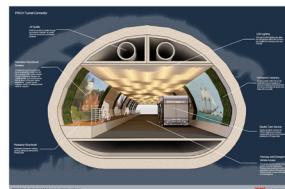
participants interviewed recovering addicts, policy experts, and medical professionals in an effort to shed light on the crisis sweeping the nation.



Blight report: To highlight successful strategies for addressing blight undertaken by other cities and regions, the 2016 JCLA participants drafted **A Citizen's Action Guide to Blight**. The group's work has since been cited in various meetings and remains a vital tool for the region's leaders when discussing blight and how to combat it.



Tunnel: The 2015 JCLA cohort explored forming a potential connection between Erie's east side and the eastern part of Presque Isle. Their research led to numerous discussions and meetings regarding the feasibility of addressing the limited access to Presque Isle.



Civic Leadership Academy Schedule 2020

May

- 5/28, 5:30 to 7 p.m. – Orientation at the Jefferson Educational Society

June

- 5/31 to 6/2 – Retreat to Harrisburg
- 6/11, 2 to 5 p.m. – History of the Erie Region
- 6/25, 3 to 8 p.m. – Team Building Activities and "Overview on Leadership", Networking Event

July

- 7/9, 2 to 8:30 p.m. – Discussion, Reception & Lecture with Distinguished Visiting Lecturer
- 7/23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Erie County's Economy and Exploring Innovation in Progressive Cities

August

- 8/13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Analyzing Erie County's Urban Core – History, Challenges, Future

September

- 9/3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Understanding Erie County Government – History, Challenges, Future
- 9/24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Learning about West Erie County – History, Challenges, Future

October

- 10/15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Learning about East Erie County – History, Challenges, Future
- 10/19 – First draft of the findings of the Group-Action Project

November

- 10/26-11/13 – Gaining a Global Perspective to Erie: Global Summit Speaker Series (attend a minimum of four Global Summit Lectures)

December

- 12/17 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Understanding Erie City Government – History, Challenges, Future

January 2020

- 1/14, 6-8 p.m. – Graduation and Reception



The 2016 Civic Leadership Academy in Harrisburg during retreat

*Schedule subject to change

Employer Return on Investment

Through the Civic Leadership Academy, employers benefit by having employees enhance their leadership skills while simultaneously developing their abilities to work in teams. Employers gain access to a broad network of prominent contacts, as their employees participate in this collaborative experience.

Civic Leadership Academy participants will:

- Graduate and return to their employer with a greater understanding of effective leadership both in the workplace and in the community;
- Increase knowledge of how Erie County functions, from its urban core to its rural communities to its relationship to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;
- Cultivate both interpersonal and intrapersonal skills through goal-oriented activities driven by collaboration, teamwork, and independent study;
- Develop strong relationships with community peers throughout diverse sectors of Erie County that will lead to a better understanding of problem solving through application;
- Increase confidence through scholarship and team-building activities.



April Soriano, Community Care Coordinator/GECAC, JCLA participant and Raimy Fellow 2018

"The Leadership Academy is absolutely excellent because it allowed me to truly form bonds with the people in my cohort who are trying to make a difference."

Tuition

The Civic Leadership Academy tuition is \$1,500. Tuition covers the retreat (transportation, lodging, meals) and lunches during the sessions. There is no additional tuition for the Raimy Fellowship Program.

Scholarship

Limited scholarship assistance is available and will be determined by the Jefferson Educational Society based on expressed need of the applicant. Those seeking scholarship assistance should express need and merit in the cover letter.

Payment

Upon recognition of acceptance to the Leadership Academy, applicants must submit partial payment (50 percent) or payment in full by Friday, May 29, 2020. Students who have not paid in full by Friday, July 31, 2020 will be dropped from the program. Applicants may make arrangements of payment installments upon acceptance to the Leadership Academy.



The Civic Leadership Academy cohort of 2018 with Governor Tom Wolf

Time Commitment

The Civic Leadership Academy is divided into three parts. The Leadership Academy cohort will:

- **Travel to Harrisburg** for a two-day retreat to meet with elected officials and engage with leadership throughout the state. Participants will meet with leaders to gain insight into the work they will apply to the group-action project.
- **Attend 7 full-day and 2 half-day countywide sessions** geared to enrich and inform Academy participants' understanding of Erie County's government, its economy, its well-being, and more. Additionally, to gain a broader understanding of global issues and how they apply to Erie, participants must attend at least four of the Global Summit XI events held in October and November.
- **Meet and work collaboratively on a common group-action project** designed to address critical issues facing Erie County. Participants looking to make the most of the opportunity to shape the future of their community should expect to dedicate two to three hours per week on the group-action project.
- **For participants in the Raimy Fellowship Program:** attend six evening sessions in leadership training designed to ground leaders in leadership theory. Attend additional meetings to work individually and collaboratively with Raimy Fellowship faculty on a group-action related project essay.



-Toni Mazanowski, Velocity Network and Emma Eisert-Wlodarczyk, Millcreek Township School District

"Being a part of the Leadership Academy means being a voice for Erie County and becoming more educated on our community's needs. We are all leaders of change and hopeful to play a part in creating ways in which our entire community can become more educated as well."

Raimy Fellows and Jefferson staff 2018



Raimy Fellows Michael Outlaw and YahMoorah Shakoor Hooker, JES President Ferki Ferati, JES Director of Operations Angela Beaumont, Fellows April Soriano, Seth Trott, and Jim Wertz, JES Vice President Ben Speggen, and Raimy Fellowship Program Facilitator Andy Roth during the trip to Washington, D.C. in March 2019

The first class of Raimy Fellows headed to Washington, D.C. in March 2019. The group met with leaders of the Cato Institute (Senior Fellow Michael Tanner); Heritage Foundation (Dir. of the Margaret Thatcher Center Nile Gardiner); Brookings Institution (Senior Fellow Mark Muro and Vice President Darrell West); and the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (Pres. Emer. Jackson Janes). The talks continued the next day with the office of U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly; Ryan Eagan, Policy Adviser for U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer; Wendell Primus, Senior Health and Policy Adviser to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi; and Steve Scully, Senior Exec. Producer of C-SPAN.

Civic Leadership Academy Application Requirements

To apply for the Civic Leadership Academy 2020, please submit the following, either online at JESerie.org or in person at the Jefferson Educational Society:

- **Current Résumé** featuring:
 - **Personal Information**, including: Name; address; personal phone number; employer phone number; email address;
 - **Work History**, detailing employment experiences and positions held;
 - **Educational Background**, including college degree (include degree and minors); advanced degrees, specific training or certificate experiences;
 - **Awards and Honors**, detailing the nature of the award and date received;
 - **Civic Engagement**, listing both current and past community-oriented involvement and noting roles held within such organizations and activities;
 - **Additional Volunteer Experience**, noting how much time was committed to organizations.
- **The Names and Contact Information of Three References** who can attest to the applicant's qualifications for the Civic Leadership Academy, leadership experience, and teamwork capacity.
- **Cover letter*** explaining what led applicants to seek admission to the **Leadership Academy**, past leadership experience, what the candidate hopes to gain through the Academy experience, what makes the candidate an ideal fit, and what would be her/his strongest contributions to the Academy and team dynamic. **Note if you want to apply to the Raimy Fellowship Program, and submit a separate letter of interest.**

Raimy Fellowship Program Eligibility and Application Requirements

Participants can complete the Civic Leadership Academy and the Fellowship Program concurrently, but must be enrolled in the Leadership Academy to completion to take part in the Fellowship Program. **Leadership Academy alumni** are eligible to apply to the Raimy Fellowship Program. To apply please submit the following, either by email or in person, at the Jefferson Educational Society:

- **Letter of interest*** explaining what led applicants to seek admission to the **Raimy Fellowship Program** which should address present qualifications as an emerging leader, how the candidate plans to apply leadership theory and skills acquired in the program, and what would make her/him an ideal Raimy Fellow.

*Cover letter and letter of interest should not exceed five-hundred words. JCLA Alumni applying to the Raimy Fellowship Program only have to write a letter of interest.

Application, Interview and Admission Process

- **Applications** will be accepted online at JESerie.org and in person at the Jefferson Educational Society until Friday, May 15;
- Applicants will be admitted to the Leadership Academy on a **rolling-admission basis** until the Academy class-size capacity is met;
- Interviews will be scheduled after application submission;
- All applicants will receive notification of admission decisions no later than **Wednesday, May 20.**

Selection Process

Ideal candidates will exhibit strong potential for leadership development coupled with an evident desire to positively effect change in the community in which they live, work, and recreate. Preferred applicants must be able to convey how both their experience and drive would translate to leadership growth spurred by team-based activities.

The Selection Committee is made up of Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy staff and its advisory board. The Committee will be tasked with reviewing incoming applications, conducting interviews, and determining admission to the Leadership Academy and the Raimy Fellowship Program.

Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy Alumni Network

The Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy Alumni Network is a formal association of graduates of the JCLA who wish to remain active in their community. The organization promotes networking among graduates, cultivating participation in activities that foster community growth, and encouraging leadership development among members. Members of the 2020 Civic Leadership cohort will have the opportunity to meet with alumni throughout the year. Upon graduation, members of the 2020 cohort will be welcomed to officially join the network.



The JCLA Alumni Network during a networking event with the Flagship Niagara League.

Civic Leadership Academy Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2109

2019 GRADUATES

Matthew Allen, Red Letter Hospitality
Nathan Bish, Erie Insurance Group
Jeffrey Bloodworth, Gannon University
Joe Cuneo, Mercyhurst University
Emma Eisert-Wlodarczyk, Millcreek Township School District
Veronica Fields, Erie City Hall, Dept. of Economic and Community Development
Lisa Fischer, United Way of Erie County
Maggie Ignasiak, Erie County Public Library
Ericka Knight, Erie County
Andrea Konkol, Penn State Behrend
Lydia Laythe, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
Annē Lewis, Red Letter Hospitality
Sarah Loftus, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services
Justin Mason, Energy Consultant at GMA
Sherri Mason, Penn State Behrend
Toni Mazanowski, Velocity Network
Patrick Miller, WQLN Public Media
Martha Nwachukwu, Erie County United
Emily Perrotta, Graduate Student
Cole Schenley, Books Galore
Jay Shaffer, Erie Insurance Group
Darnell Stallworth, Pennsylvania Stands Up
Honey Stempka, Erie County Dept. of Planning and Community Development
Juanita Maria Stokes, Charter Communications
Matthew Washek, L'Arche Erie
Ashley Westgate, ServErie
Andona Zacks-Jordan, LECOM



Breanna Adams, 2016
Kevin Arrington, 2015
Niken Astari, 2016
Julie Barry, 2018
Angela Beaumont, 2015
Jada Best, 2018
Paige Bosnyak, 2017
Kristin Bowers, 2017
Carissa Brandt, 2018
Jay Breneman, 2016
Joelyn Bush, 2017
Michelle Butler, 2016
Correy Connelly, 2018
Chanel Cook, 2015
Lisa Counasse, 2015
Meagan Cousins, 2017
Kurt Crays, 2018
Chelsea Curlett, 2018
Emily Dauber, 2017
Dusti Dennis, 2018
Brian Dorio, 2016
Patrick Duda, 2017
Joylene Ehrich, 2018
Jennifer Farrar, 2015
Ferki Ferati, 2016
J. Brian Foht, 2017
Kevin Forte, 2017
Bill Frackowiak, 2017
Kerry Franz, 2015
Natalia Garcia, 2017
Jamilia Gates, 2018
Tim Giblin, 2015
Varun Gupta, 2016
Riki Hay, 2017
Kati Hecker, 2017
Andrew Henderson, 2015
James Heubel, 2016
Kyle Hinsdale, 2015
Heather Hinz, 2018
Khadija Horton, 2016
Andrew Hromyak, 2015
Jessica Hunter, 2018
Amanda Iadeluca, 2016
Patreece Johnson, 2018
Alison Kaminski, 2016
Andrew Kerr, 2017
Hannah Kirby, 2015
Andrew Kochirka, 2016
Halle Kostansek, 2016
Steve Krivonak, 2015
Christopher LaFuria, 2015
Afrim Latifi, 2017
Ashley Lawson, 2016
Christal Lepak, 2017
Doug Magee, 2018
Tom Maggio, 2016

Heather McBrier, 2017
Tiffany McCloud, 2016
Michael McCormick, 2015
Stephanie Montgomery, 2018
Tori Moore, 2018
April Morrison, 2015
Marwah Obaid, 2018
Michael Outlaw, 2018
Tiffanie Page-Collazo, 2016
Ryan Palm, 2016
Kevin Pollock, 2015
Shawnta Pulliam, 2015
Veronica Rexford, 2015
Lesley Ridge, 2015
Kevin Schaaf, 2017
William Scholz, 2015
YahMoorah Shakoor-Hooker, 2018
Patrick Simpson, 2015
Paul Smola, 2016
April Soriano, 2018
Depend Tamba, 2017
Nick Taylor, 2018
Tiffany Thomas, 2016
Tyler Titus, 2017
Mary Tredway, 2017
Seth Trott, 2018
Alvin Tucker, II, 2015



Laura Walchack, 2015
Maureen Walls, 2016
Shawn Waskiewicz, 2017
Jim Wertz, 2018
Brad Wiertel, 2017
Matthew Wiertel, 2016
Erin Wincek, 2015
Nina Wolfarth, 2015
Perry Wood, 2016
Jessica Yochim, 2017
Andrea Zdaniewski, 2017
Brian Zona, 2018

During a **two-day retreat to Harrisburg**, participants of the Civic Leadership Academy has met with Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Victor P. Stabile, and leadership from both the House of Representatives and the State Senate as well as the Erie delegation. The group has also met with policy experts specific to the research projects they've explored to help them seek solutions to which issues affect Erie and Pennsylvania.

Each year after returning from Harrisburg, the **JCLA visits numerous municipalities throughout Erie County** to learn about the history, challenges, and future plans of those regions. Along the way, they've met with the Erie County Executive; the Chairman of County Council; the Mayor of the City of Erie; the President of Erie City Council; Supervisors from Fairview, Harborcreek, Millcreek, and North East; representatives from Corry and Union City; the Mayor of Wesleyville; the Borough Manager for Edinboro; numerous policy experts including former DNC Chairman Howard Dean, former RNC Chairman Michael Steele, and John Hudak, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and Michael Tanner, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; and toured the State Correctional Institution in Albion.

JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

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www.JESerie.org

The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie believes in offering courses, seminars, and lectures that explain the ideas that formed the past, assist in exploring the present, and offer guidance in creating the future of the Erie region.

JES MISSION

The Jefferson Educational Society was created as a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization on Sept. 29, 2008 and on that same date received tax-exempt status by the Federal department of the Treasury under Employment Identification Number 26-3460486. The Jefferson operates under a 501 (c) (3) educational nonprofit charter, though it does not offer degrees or programs for formal academic credit. The Jefferson was founded to stimulate community progress through education and research activities. Its mission also includes a commitment to operate in a non-partisan, non-denominational manner without a political or philosophical bias. As such, the Jefferson intends to follow the examined truth wherever it leads and is neither liberal nor conservative, Democratic nor Republican in philosophy or in action.

OUR BUILDING PARTNERSHIP

The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie and the Brith Sholom Congregation of 3207 State Street, entered into a shared-use building agreement in October 2008. Under the terms of this arrangement, the Jefferson utilizes facilities in the Southern Wing, which houses an adult education facility in order to offer lectures, courses, seminars, and sponsored research. The Brith Sholom Congregation continues to use the building's Northern Wing for religious and congregational purposes. The Jefferson Educational Society purchased the building in August 2013 and has invested in its renovation.