

JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

JEFFERSON CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2021



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 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 2021, 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 Meade 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



Adam Welsh, B.S.
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
- 2021 Schedules 5
- Employer Return on Investment, Tuition,
Scholarship & Payment..... 6
- Time Commitment/Program Rubric..... 7
- Application, Interview and Admission Process..... 8
- Selection Process and Alumni Network 9
- Class of 2015/2016/2017/2018/2019/202010

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 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 2021 JCLA program, those who seek to be designated Raimy Fellows will also attend several additional 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 the overall JCLA group action project, Fellows will produce a publishable, research-based action-agenda guiding civic engagement with the issue explored in the JCLA's group action project.

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, research foundations, and to enjoy a tour of Capitol Hill and some of the capital's other attractions.



Andrew Roth, Ph.D.
Raimy Fellowship
Program Facilitator

Group Action Project

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 preliminary topic for this year was chosen by the Civic Leadership Academy alumni to address 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:

Erie County Business Series:

Resources for Building Resiliency During Uncertain Times:

The 2020 Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy cohort was tasked with examining the topic of “Leadership in a Time of Crisis: Proposing a Preparedness Model for Erie County.” The cohort explored this topic during the Covid-19 global pandemic that began in December 2019. After researching the early effects of the pandemic, conferring with business assistance organizations, and interviewing local businesses and nonprofits, the cohort confirmed that the mandated shutdown severely impacted many businesses within Erie County. Even after businesses were permitted to reopen, limits on capacity and other health and safety requirements necessary to protect the public continued to have impacts on businesses. As a result of this research, the cohort decided the best way to address the topic of “Leadership in the Time of Crisis” was by sharing business resiliency tactics and information through a business speaker series.



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 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.



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



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 2021

This schedule is reflecting Pennsylvania state regulations and public health guidance during the coronavirus pandemic. The schedule is subject to change and can be converted from virtual, half-day to in-person, full-day sessions or vice versa as circumstances require.

July

- Thursday, 7/8, 5:30 – 7 p.m.: Orientation
- Thursday, 7/15: History of the Erie Region and Overview on Leadership
- Thursday, 7/29: Erie County's Economy and Exploring Innovation in Progressive Cities



The 2016 Civic Leadership Academy in Harrisburg during retreat

August

- Thursday, 8/19: Analyzing Erie County's Urban Core – History, Challenges, Future
- Thursday, 8/26: Team Building Activity

September

- Thursday, 9/2: Understanding Erie County Government – History, Challenges, Future
- Thursday, 9/23: Understanding Pennsylvania State Government

October

- Thursday, 10/14: Learning about West Erie County – History, Challenges, Future
- Gaining a Global Perspective to Erie: attend a minimum of four Global Summit XIII lectures

November

- Monday, 11/15: First Draft of the findings of the Group-Action Project

December

- Thursday, 12/9: Learning about East Erie County – History, Challenges, Future

January

- Thursday, 1/13: Understanding Erie City Government – History, Challenges, Future
- Monday, 1/17: Final draft of the Group-Action Project

February

- Thursday, 2/10: Graduation and Reception

**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.

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 Thursday, July 8, 2021. Students who have not paid in full by Thursday, September 9, 2021 will be dropped from the program. Applicants may make arrangements of payment installments upon acceptance to the Leadership Academy.



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."



The Civic Leadership Academy Class of 2019 with Governor Tom Wolf

Time Commitment

The Civic Leadership Academy is divided into three parts. The 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 thought leaders to gain insight into the work they will apply to the group-action project.
- **Attend 7 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 XIII events designed to address critical issues.
- **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 five 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 Spегgen, 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 and/or the Raimy Fellowship Program 2021, please submit the following, either online at JESerie.org or by mail to 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.**
- **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 from **Monday, April 5 to Monday, June 14**;
- 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 **Monday, June 21**.

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 2021 Civic Leadership cohort will have the opportunity to meet with alumni throughout the year. Upon graduation, members of the 2021 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 - 2020

2020 GRADUATES

Lauren Azotea, ServErie/VISTA

James Omar Clea, Pitts Funeral Home and Cremation Services

John Durlin, Erie County Department of Public Safety

Shelby Graml, Hagen History Center

Randalee Gross, Erie County Library, Edinboro

Michelle Hartmann, Penn State Behrend

Antonio Howard, Federal Public Defender's Office

Sara Little, Hagen History Center

LeeAnne Pukylo, Graduate Student, Mercyhurst University

Deng Rag, Erie Housing Authority

Belinda Rogers, Erie Insurance

Nathan Ross, Northwest Bank

Daniel Salamone, Gannon University

Drevell Showers, WQLN

Antonio Stapp, Bianchi

Jeff Styborski, Erie Insurance

Robert Tate, ResCare

Kristen Weibel, Erie Arts and Culture



Breanna Adams, 2016
 Matthew Allen, 2019
 Kevin Arrington, 2015
 Niken Astari, 2016
 Julie Barry, 2018
 Angela Beaumont, 2015
 Jada Best, 2018
 Nathan Bish, 2019
 Jeffrey Bloodworth, 2019
 Paige Bosnyak, 2017
 Kristin Bowers, 2017
 Carissa Brandt, 2018
 Jay Breneman, 2016
 Joelyn Bush, 2017
 Michelle Butler, 2016
 DaWayne Cleckley, 2015
 Correy Connelly, 2018
 Chanel Cook, 2015
 Lisa Counasse, 2015
 Meagan Cousins, 2017
 Kurt Crays, 2018
 Joe Cuneo, 2019
 Chelsea Curlett, 2018
 Emily Dauber, 2017
 Dusti Dennis, 2018
 Brian Dorio, 2016
 Patrick Duda, 2017
 Joylene Ehrich, 2018
 Emma Eisert-Wlodarczyk, 2019
 Jennifer Farrar, 2015
 Ferki Ferati, 2016
 Veronica Fields, 2019
 Lisa Fischer 2019
 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 Iadaluca, 2016
 Maggie Ignasiak, 2019
 Patreece Johnson, 2018
 Alison Kaminski, 2016
 Andrew Kerr, 2017
 Hannah Kirby, 2015
 Ericka Knight, 2019
 Andrew Kochirka, 2016
 Andrea Konkol, 2019
 Halle Kostansek, 2016
 Steve Krivonak, 2015
 Christopher LaFuria, 2015
 Afrim Latifi, 2017

Ashley Lawson, 2016
 Lydia Laythe, 2019
 Christal Lepak, 2017
 Anne Lewis, 2019
 Mac Lewis, 2016
 Sarah Loftus, 2019
 Doug Magee, 2018
 Tom Maggio, 2016
 Justin Mason, 2019
 Sherri Mason, 2019
 Toni Mazanowski, 2019
 Heather McBrier, 2017
 Tiffany McCloud, 2016
 Michael McCormick, 2015
 Patrick Miller, 2019
 Stephanie Montgomery, 2018
 Tori Moore, 2018
 April Morrison, 2015
 Keith Moses, 2015
 Martha Nwachukwu, 2019
 Marwah Obaid, 2018
 Michael Outlaw, 2018
 Tiffanie Page-Collazo, 2016
 Ryan Palm, 2016
 Emily Perrotta, 2019
 Kevin Pollock, 2015
 Shawnta Pulliam, 2015
 Veronica Rexford, 2015
 Lesley Ridge, 2015
 Kevin Schaaf, 2017
 Cole Schenley, 2019
 William Scholz, 2015
 Jay Shaffer, 2019
 YahMoorah Shakoor-Hooker, 2018
 Patrick Simpson, 2015
 Paul Smola, 2016
 April Soriano, 2018
 Darnell Stallworth, 2019
 Honey Stempka, 2019
 Juanita Maria Stokes, 2019s



Depend Tamba, 2017
 Nick Taylor, 2018
 Tiffany Thomas, 2016
 Tyler Titus, 2017
 Mary Tredway, 2017
 Brad Triana, 2016
 Seth Trott, 2018
 Alvin Tucker, II, 2015
 Laura Walchack, 2015
 Maureen Walls, 2016
 Matthew Washek, 2019
 Shawn Waskiewicz, 2017
 Jim Wertz, 2018
 Ashley Westgate, 2019
 Brad Wiertel, 2017
 Matthew Wiertel, 2016
 Erin Wincek, 2015
 Nina Wolfarth, 2015
 Perry Wood, 2016
 Jessica Yochim, 2017
 Andona Zacks-Jordan, 2019
 Andrea Zdaniewski, 2017
 Brian Zona, 2018

The Civic Leadership cohorts have met with state leaders in both the House and Senate, and Superior Court Judge Victor Stabile. Participants also meet with elected officials and other community leaders throughout Erie County, the city of Erie, and many other local municipalities. Each year, the JCLA meets with representatives of 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 Erie and Corry; the President of Erie City Council; Supervisors from Fairview, Harborcreek, Millcreek; leaders from Corry and Union City; the Borough Manager for Edinboro, and numerous policy experts, professionals, and community stakeholders.

JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

3207 STATE STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508-2821

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 255
ERIE, PA



ECGRA GRANT MONEY WORKS HERE!
ecgra.org 814.877.2690

814-459-8000
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.