

The Jefferson Alliance *for* Community Progress

ERIE COUNTY CIVIC
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



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DO THESE QUALITIES DESCRIBE YOU?

- Passion for the people and future of our community
- Interest and personal commitment in shaping Erie County's growth and development
- Prior and continuing investment in the community through past and present activities
- Demonstrate leadership within community organizations
- Desire to enhance your leadership skills and grow your professional network
- Aspire to work with others on community enhancement projects
- Willingness and capability to commit the time and energy necessary to complete program requirements

If so, you are an ideal candidate for the Erie County Civic Leadership program

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The Jefferson Alliance *for* Community Progress

*The Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress (JCAP)
is the leadership-in-action arm of the Jefferson Educational Society.
Its purpose is to undertake the 2015 JES initiatives, a program intended to foster
municipal collaboration and civic progress throughout Erie County.*

The 2015 JES initiatives are:

1. An **Erie County Civic Leadership** (ECCL) program with the goal of developing civic leadership through an intensive seven month curriculum and a community-based project;
2. The **Jefferson Dinner Series** to stimulate fellowship and disseminate new ideas to meet challenges in the various geographic areas of Erie County; and,
3. **The Jefferson Essays**, a quarterly publication of 25 to 35 page essays that focus on a major community issue or a promising idea, with the objective of promoting community dialogue and to serve as a call to action for improving the quality of life throughout the region.

Thomas Jefferson believed a citizenry that was educated on issues and shared its ideas through public discourse had the power to make a difference in the world.

The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie is a strong proponent of his belief, 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.

ERIE COUNTY CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Erie County Civic Leadership (ECCL) will prepare professionals, ages 25 to 45, for meaningful, fulfilling and impactful engagement in the community. The program goal is to provide a unique environment that fosters teamwork, growth, and learning to create a transformative experience.



Part I of the ECCL program will examine how local governments (county, cities, boroughs and townships) work in order to prepare emerging civic leaders effect positive change for Erie County's future.

PART II of the ECCL program will be devoted to sessions on economic development, land use and environmental concerns, public safety, education, and healthcare and aging. The last session will explore Erie County politics and the rudiments of becoming a candidate and to run for office.

“Erie County's greatest asset is our pool of highly motivated, knowledgeable leaders who know Erie County and who are primed to work for what is necessary for Erie County's future.”

*~ David Kozak, Ph.D. Gannon University and
Founder and Director of former Leadership Erie*

GROUP ACTION PROJECT

The ECCL class will also participate in a team-based, customized project designed to cultivate civic action by analyzing a critical issue facing Erie County.

On average, Presque Isle State Park attracts over four million visitors each year to recreate. Their safety is a top concern for State Park officials. ECCL's Group Action Project will partner with Presque Isle's leadership on their new Master Planning Project to determine the feasibility of a tunnel under the channel to connect the park with Erie's eastside.



ECCL PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Learn first-hand the challenges facing the geographic areas of Erie County
- Discover how these sectors are interrelated
- Examine how to be an agent of change in the community
- Benefit from being part of a diverse, motivated peer group
- Connect with local leaders of Erie County
- Undertake action to accomplish a civic project

CLASS OF 2015 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 22

Meet & Greet 5 to 7 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society

Thursday & Friday, April 23 – 24

Overnight Retreat in Pittsburgh, PA

PART I 5 - 8 hour sessions, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 7

Thursday, May 21

Thursday, June 4

Thursday, June 18

Thursday, July 9

PART II 5 - 4 ½ hour sessions, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, July 23

Thursday, August 6

Thursday, August 20

Thursday, September 10

Thursday, September 24

2 to 3 hours per week of additional time devoted to the group project will run concurrently with these bimonthly sessions. Group project meetings will be scheduled at the discretion of the participants.

Thursday, October 6 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Presentation of Group Action Project and Commencement

Jefferson Educational Society

“The time is ripe for a formative program that builds upon all that has gone before us. We are fortunate to have productive leaders who have made a difference. We now need to create a new group of dedicated frontrunners who will provide the energy and direction for the next 20 years.”

~Michael Fuhrman, Associate Director of JACP

TIME COMMITMENT

The ECCL is divided into two parts:

PART I is a mandatory retreat held in Pittsburgh that begins April 23 and continues April 24 (a day and a half including one night). The ECCL program continues from May 7 to July 9, with five bimonthly, full-day sessions on understanding local government in Erie County and its challenges.

PART II includes five bimonthly, 4 ½ hour sessions from July 23 to September 24 exploring in-depth issues confronting the region.

The program will conclude with a commencement luncheon Thursday, October 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., during which the group action project will be presented before invited employers, local officials, and media.

In order to earn a graduate certificate, participants must be prepared to commit their personal time and energy to the program and attend at least 90 percent of the sessions.

EMPLOYER RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Through the ECCL program, employers will benefit from having their employees receive training that enhances their ability to work in teams and hones their leadership skills. Additionally, employers will gain access to a broad network of prominent contacts through the inclusion of their employees in this collaborative training program. In particular:

- Employees will bring a better understanding of what effective leadership requires back to the workplace;
- Employee interpersonal skills will be sharpened through accomplishing challenging goals through collaboration and teamwork;
- Employees will develop relationship with peers in other sectors, learning new approaches to problem solving; and
- Employee confidence and leadership skills will be cultivated through working on a community project requiring community interaction.

TUITION

Tuition for the Class of 2015 is \$1,500, non-refundable. Tuition covers the overnight retreat, hotel, and luncheons. Partial scholarships are available. JACP

will work with successful applicants so that tuition is not a barrier.

A successful applicant can make payment in-full at the time of notification or provide a payment of 25 percent (\$375) with the remaining tuition to be paid by July 31, 2015.



“Do you want to know who you are? Don’t ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you.”

~Thomas Jefferson

TIMETABLE FOR APPLICATION, INTERVIEW AND NOTIFICATION

- Applications will be accepted from March 1, 2015, to March 30, 2015.
- Interviews of prospective applicants will occur during March and the first week of April.
- Successful applicants will be notified beginning April 7, 2015.

SELECTION PROCESS

Preferred Candidate Qualities: The program looks for candidates who show leadership potential within their company or community and who are committed to making Erie County a better place in which to live and work. The desire is to create a well-balanced class with representation from varied occupational, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, as well as geographical locations.

The Selection Committee will be composed of the program’s staff and Advisory Board, geographically representative of Erie County, and will have the responsibility for reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, and determining members of the class of 2015.

ECCL PROGRAM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please provide a resume with the following information:

Personal and Current Contact Information

- Name
- Address
- Home Phone
- Other Phone
- Email

Work History

- List work experience(s) and position(s) held

Educational Background

- List educational background, beginning with high school, include college(s), advanced degrees and/or specific training. Specify major.
- Any special honors received
- Leadership positions held in high school and/or college

Involvement in Civic Activities (Please list, in order of importance to you, current community, civic, religious, political, social, and athletic or other activities in which you are involved. Indicate your role in these activities (do not include business/professional affiliations).

- Organization name and membership dates
- Any activity involving the greater community
- Please cite the organization's most important accomplishment. Were you a participant in this accomplishment?
- On average, how much time each month do you currently commit to volunteer work?

What led you to apply for admission to this program?

- Have you been a part of any Leadership program in the past?
- If yes, what program and what year?
- How did you become interested in Erie County Civic Leadership Program?
- Please explain briefly what you hope to gain from and how you would use your ECCL experience?
- What do you hope to contribute to the 2015 class?

Challenges facing Erie County

- In your opinion, what are the greatest challenges facing Erie County?
- Are you currently involved in addressing these challenges?
- In your opinion, what could a countywide leadership organization do to address these challenge?

Include Bio: Please write a three-paragraph bio to be reviewed by the interview team prior to your interview.

References: Please obtain two letters of reference: one professional and one personal. They should attest to your qualifications for this program, previous leadership performance, and the potential to create change. Please list these two references below. The application and letters of reference should be received by Erie County Civic Leadership no later than March 30, 2015 either by email to info@jeserie.org or mail to the Jefferson Educational Society - ECCL

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Erie's Think Tank for Community Progress

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