



***WANTED:  
DYNAMIC, EMERGING,  
HIGH-POTENTIAL LEADERS.  
APPLY NOW.***

## Dynamic. Interactive. Collaborative.

### Dear Civic-minded Erie County Resident,

192 miles and 74 hours. That’s how far you will travel and how much time you will spend to learn more about Erie County during the seven months in this dynamic Academy, from learning about the City of Erie, to Erie’s urban core, its suburban ring, and its rural communities to the south, to the east, and to the west. That’s not including the retreat to Harrisburg, where you will interact with policy experts to begin researching the collaborative group action project. In addition, you will also meet with Governor Tom Wolf, attend House and Senate sessions, meet with the Erie Delegation, visit the Supreme Court, and meet with policy experts to begin exploring the critical research you will contribute to.

Beginning in 2018, the Civic Leadership Academy will also offer an additional track, the Raimy Fellowship Program, to participants who wish to combine practical civic engagement with leadership theory. Upon graduation, Raimy Fellows will travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with national policy researchers and enjoy our capital’s splendor.

Whether you’re looking to participate in our tried-and-true Civic Leadership Academy or are looking for the added challenge of the new Raimy Fellowship Program, our common vision here is to make this region a better place for all of its citizens by providing this dynamic, integrative, and collaborative opportunity for emerging leaders in Erie County.

We look forward to sharing that vision with you.

Sincerely,

**Ben Speggen, M.A.**  
Program Director



**Angela Beaumont, M.A.**  
Program Coordinator



**Andrew Roth, Ph.D.**  
Scholar-In-Residence



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### 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, approximately 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 Leadership Academy, students 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 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.**

## Introducing the Raimy Fellowship Program

In addressing expressed interest from Civic Leadership Academy alumni to offer an additional focus on leadership theory, the Jefferson is proud to introduce the Raimy Fellowship Program. Raimy Fellows will study leadership, apply their knowledge to a practical policy problem in the local region and emerge prepared to assume an enhanced role in their organization and in the community. As the culmination of their work, linking their research to the overall Leadership Academy group-action project, Fellows will produce a publishable, research-based action-agenda guiding civic engagement with the issue explored in the Civic Leadership Academy's group-action project.

Those who complete the program will be designated Raimy Fellows on their Civic Leadership Academy 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 monuments and other attractions.

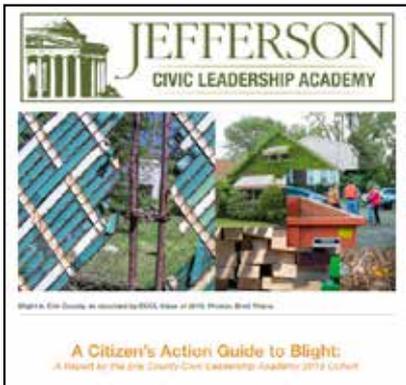
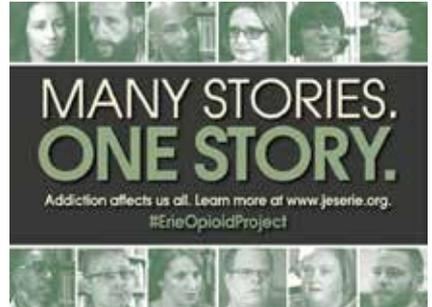
## Group Action Project

As part of the Academy, participants develop their leadership skills by engaging in research to address critical issues facing their community.

After careful consideration of various topics, the preliminary topic for this year was chosen by the Civic Leadership Academy alumni to address poverty in Erie County. The research, form, and execution of the project, however, is at the discretion of the 2018 cohort.

### Past projects include:

**#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:** The 2016 JCLA participants drafted **A Citizen's Action Guide to Blight** to highlight successful strategies for addressing blight undertaken by other cities and regions. 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 Concept:** 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 to address the limited access to Presque Isle.



## Civic Leadership Academy Schedule 2018\*

### May

- 5/31, 5:30 to 7 p.m. – Orientation at the Jefferson Educational Society

### June

- 6/3 to 6/5 – Retreat to Harrisburg
- 6/14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – History of the Erie Region and the Art of Leadership
- 6/28, 3 to 8 p.m. – Team Building Activities and Get-together

### July

- 7/12, 2 to 8:30 p.m. – Discussion, Reception & Lecture with Distinguished Visiting Lecturer & guests
- 7/26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Erie County's Economy and Exploring Innovation in Progressive Cities

### August

- 8/16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Analyzing Erie County's Urban Core – History, Challenges, Future

### September

- 9/6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Understanding Erie County Government – History, Challenges, Future
- 9/27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Learning about West Erie County – History, Challenges, Future

### October

- 10/18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Learning about East Erie County – History, Challenges, Future
- 10/22 – First draft of the findings of the Group-Action Project

### November

- 10/29 to 11/16 – Gaining a Global Perspective to Erie: Global Summit Speaker Series (attend a minimum of four Global Summit Lectures)

### December

- 12/13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Understanding Erie City Government – History, Challenges, Future

### January 2019

- 1/10, 6-8 p.m. – Graduation and Reception



**The 2016 Civic Leadership Academy in Harrisburg during retreat**

## Raimy Fellowship Program Schedule 2018\*

### June

- 6/14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Raimy Fellowship Program Orientation during Leadership Academy session “History of the Erie Region and the Art of Leadership”

### July

- 7/9, 6 to 8 p.m. – “Leadership Theory I”
- 7/23, 6 to 8 p.m. – “Leadership Theory II”

### August

- 8/6, 6 to 8 p.m. – “Research Methodology”
- 8/20, 6 to 8 p.m. – “The Effective Civic Leaders I”

### September

- 9/13, 6 to 8 p.m. – “The *Ethical* Effective Civic Leader II”

### October

- 10/22 – First Raimy Fellowship project essay outline due

### January 2019

- TBD – Trip to Washington, D.C., for Raimy Fellows

## 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 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.

## 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 Civic Leadership Academy, applicants must submit partial payment (50 percent) or payment in full by Friday, June 1, 2018. Students who have not paid in full by Wednesday, August 1, 2018 will be dropped from the program. Applicants may make arrangements of payment installments upon acceptance to the Leadership Academy.



**Andrea Zdaniewski (2017),  
Erie Insurance**

*“The Jefferson’s  
commitment to  
this community is  
remarkable and the Civic  
Leadership Academy is  
an awesome avenue to  
join in the commitment  
and learn more about  
where we live.”*



**The Civic Leadership Academy cohort of 2017 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 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 X events held in November.
- **Meet and work collaboratively on a common group-action project** designed to address a critical issue 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.



**Khadija W. Horton (2016),  
Erie County Public  
Defender's Office**

*“The most valuable aspect of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy was networking with likeminded young professionals from diverse backgrounds in Erie County.”*

### **The Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy welcomes Dr. Andrew Roth to the team!**



With the introduction of the Raimy Fellows, Dr. Roth will be joining the Jefferson's team, bringing decades of leadership experience. As a Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Roth will facilitate the Raimy Fellow sessions and help guide Fellows through the study of leadership theory and their individual research process.

Dr. Roth has had a global experience in higher education spanning more than 45 years. At Mercyhurst University, he was a tenured faculty member, a distinguished coach, and a senior administrator, including Vice President of Academic Affairs. In 2003, he assumed the presidency of Notre Dame College, from which he retired in June 2014 after receiving an Honorary Doctorate for his leadership and service and being named President-Emeritus. Most recently, he served as the interim President of St. Bonaventure University until August 2017, after which he joined the Jefferson team.

## Civic Leadership Academy Application Requirements

To apply for the Civic Leadership Academy 2018, please submit the following, either online at [JESerie.org](http://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 high school; college experience (include degree and minors); any advanced degrees and/or specific training and/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 should be able to attest to the applicant's qualifications for the Civic Leadership Academy, leadership experience and potential, as well as teamwork capacity.
- **Cover letter\*** explaining what led applicants to seek admission to the Civic Leadership Academy and, if desired, to the Raimy Fellowship Program, which should address past leadership experience, what the candidate hopes to gain through the Leadership Academy experience, what makes the candidate an ideal fit for the Academy, and what the applicant believes would be her/his strongest contributions to the Academy and team dynamic. The candidate needs to note the interest in participating in the Raimy Fellowship Program.

\*Cover Letter should not exceed five-hundred words.

## Application, Interview, and Admission Process

- **Applications** will be accepted online at [JESerie.org](http://JESerie.org) and in person at the Jefferson Educational Society from Monday, March 19 to Friday, May 18;
- Applicants will be admitted to the Leadership Academy **on a rolling-admission basis** until the Academy class-size capacity is met;
- Interviews may be conducted at the time of application submission;
- All applicants will receive notification of admission decisions no later than **Wednesday, May 23**.

## 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.

## 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 2018 Civic Leadership cohort will have the opportunity to meet with alumni throughout the year. Upon graduation, members of the 2018 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

Breanna Adams	Erie County Department of Health	2016
Kevin Arrington	Young Entrepreneur Society, Inc.	2015
Niken Astari	City of Erie	2016
Angela Beaumont	The Brock Institute	2015
Paige Bosnyak	Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates	2017
Kristin Bowers	Office of the County Executive	2017
Jay Breneman	Life NWPA	2016
Joelyn Bush	United Way of Erie County	2017
Michelle Butler	GE Transportation	2016
DaWayne Cleckley	PBS39 (formerly WQLN Public Media)	2015
Chanel Cook	Erie County Public Library	2015
Lisa Counasse	WQLN Public Media	2015
Meagan Cousins	EMTA	2017
Emily Dauber	Erie Art Museum	2017
Brian Dorio	Erie Insurance Group	2016
Patrick Duda	Erie Insurance Group	2017
Jennifer Farrar	EmergyCare	2015
Ferki Ferati	Jefferson Educational Society	2016
J. Brian Foht	Foht Investment LLC	2017
Kevin Forte	L'Arche Erie	2017
Bill Frackowiak	Stairways Behavioral Health	2017
Kerry Franz	Erie Insurance	2015
Natalia Garcia	WQLN Public Media	2017
Tim Giblin	Corry Redevelopment Authority	2015
Varun Gupta	Penn State Behrend	2016
Riki Hay	Penn State Behrend	2017
Kati Hecker	Erie Insurance Group	2017
Andrew Henderson	Stairways Behavioral Health	2015
James Heubel	Cumulus Media	2016
Kyle Hinsdale	NE Foods, Inc.	2015
Khadija Horton	Erie County Public Defender's Office	2016
Andrew Hromyak	USDOJ	2015
Amanda Iadeluca	County of Erie	2016
Alison Kaminski	GE Transportation	2016
Andrew Kerr	Erie City Mission/Andy Kerr Coaching	2016
Hannah Kirby	Ember + Forge	2015
Andrew Kochirka	Erie Times-News/CyberInk	2016
Halle Kostansek	WQLN Public Media	2016
Steve Krivonak	NAMI	2015

Christopher LaFuria	Erie Times-News	2015
Afrim Latifi	Allstate Insurance	2017
Ashley Lawson	Gannon University	2016
Christal Lepak	Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	2017
Mac Lewis	The Cork 1794	2016
Tom Maggio	ECGRA	2016
Heather McBrier	Stairways Behavioral Health, BLOOM	2017
Tiffany McCloud	Her P.O.W.E.R., Inc.	2016
Michael McCormick	Erie Beer Company	2015
April Morrison	Erie Insurance Group	2015
Keith Moses	Propel Schools	2015
Tiffanie Page-Collazo	Women's Round Table	2016
Ryan Palm	Mercyhurst University	2016
Kevin Pollock	F.N.B. Corporation	2015
Shawnta Pulliam	Nurturing Hearts, INC	2015
Veronica Rexford	Urban Erie Community Development Center	2015
Lesley Ridge	Socialution Media	2015
Kevin Schaaf	TechnipFM	2017
William Scholz	Radius Cowork	2015
Patrick Simpson	Erie Insurance Group	2015
Paul Smola	Graco High Pressure Equipment	2016
Depend Tamba	Quality of Life Learning Center	2017
Tiffany Thomas	St. Vincent Hospital	2016
Tyler Titus	Harborcreek Youth Services	2017
Mary Tredway	Jefferson Educational Society	2017
Bradley Triana	BOTH Studios	2016
Alvin Tucker, II	Wealth Generators	2015
Laura Walchack	Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel	2015
Maureen Walls	Erie School District	2016
Shawn Waskiewicz	Flagship Niagara League	2017
Brad Wiertel	Velocity Network	2017
Matthew Wiertel	Velocity Network	2016
Erin Wincek	Erie County Public Library	2015
Nina Wolfarth	Barber National Institute	2015
Perry Wood	ECGRA	2016
Jessica Yochim	MenajErie Studio	2017
Andrea Zdaniewski	Erie Insurance Group	2017



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