



JEFFERSON

CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2017



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

APPLY NOW.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About The Jefferson Educational Society	2
About the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy	3
Group Action Project	3
2017 Academy Schedule	4
Employer Return on Investment, Tuition, Scholarship & Payment	5
Time Commitment/Program Rubric	6
Application, Interview, and Admission Process	7
Selection Process	7
Class of 2015/2016	8



About The Jefferson Educational Society

As a nonprofit think tank, The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie (JES) 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 JES 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 JES serves as a platform of discussion and a vehicle for progress to enhance the civic future of the Erie Region.

Dear Civic-minded Erie County Resident,

Dynamic. Interactive. Collaborative.

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'll develop your leadership skills through learning, which we believe will inspire action.

You'll better get to know the region in which you live through an examination of the form and function of Erie County government. You'll 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'll work together to produce positive changes that will shape the region's future for decades to come.

Andrew Carnegie once said that "teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision." 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,

Ben Speggen, M.A.
Program Director

Angela Beaumont, M.A.
Program Coordinator



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.



Civic Leadership Academy cohort with elected officials at a rally of Erie's school district supporters in the Harrisburg Capitol Rotunda.

Through the Civic 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 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 wellbeing.



"The Jefferson Educational Society's Civic Leadership Academy is an exceptional opportunity to get to know the place you call home – both your immediate neighbors and the surrounding communities – and to get hands-on with shaping its future. And the networking – and camaraderie! – opportunities afforded by the Academy are invaluable."

– Halle Kostansek, WQLN Public Media



Civic Leadership Academy Cleanup Team

GROUP ACTION PROJECT

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.

In 2016, the Leadership Academy addressed blight in Erie County, creating a citizen's action guide to combating blight. The 2015 cohort addressed creating a potential connection between Erie's east side and Presque Isle via an underwater tunnel.

The preliminary topic for this year was chosen by the Civic Leadership Academy alumni and will address the opioid crisis in Erie County, but the research, form, and execution of the project is at the discretion of the cohort.

JEFFERSON CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SCHEDULE 2017

Thursday, June 1

5:30 p.m. – Civic Leadership Academy 2017 Orientation at The Jefferson Educational Society

Sunday, June 4 to Tuesday, June 6

Retreat to Harrisburg

Thursday, June 15

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – History of the Erie Region and the Art of Leadership
Post-session scheduled Group Meeting

Thursday, June 29

Team Building Activities and Get-together T.B.D.

Thursday, July 13: Discussion, Reception & Lecture

2 to 9 p.m. – Brookings Institution Senior Fellow in Governance Studies, Dr. John Hudak: “The Opioid Crisis”

Thursday, July 27

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Erie County’s Economy and Exploring Innovation in Progressive Cities
Post-session scheduled Group Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 17

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Analyzing Erie County’s Urban Core – History, Challenges, Future
Post-session scheduled Group Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 7

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Understanding Erie County Government – History, Challenges, Future
Post-session scheduled Group Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 28

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Learning about West Erie County – History, Challenges, Future
Post-session scheduled Group Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 19

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Learning about East Erie County – History, Challenges, Future
Post-session scheduled Group Meeting



The 2016 Civic Leadership Academy in Harrisburg during retreat

Monday, Oct. 23

First draft of the findings of the Group-Action Project due

Monday, Nov. 6 to Friday, Nov. 17

Gaining a Global Perspective: Global Summit Speaker Series
Civic Leadership Academy Participants must attend a minimum of four Global Summit Lectures

Thursday, Dec. 14

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Understanding Erie City Government – History, Challenges, Future
Post-session scheduled Group Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018

Graduation and Reception

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 Leadership Academy, applicants must submit partial payment (50 percent) or payment in full by Thursday, June 1, 2017. Students who have not paid in full by Tuesday, August 1, 2017, will be dropped from the Academy. Applicants may make arrangements of payment installations upon acceptance to the Leadership Academy.



Leadership at Work



"I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to become an active member of such a motivated and passionate group of young professionals concerned with the success of Erie County. In the process of focusing on blight in all its forms – urban, suburban, and rural – we gained a better understanding of our state government and all 38 independent governing bodies within the county, drawing upon their strengths and concerns to create an actionable document for the residents of Erie County to become active participants in not only halting the spread of blight, but reducing its footprint."

– Paul Smola, Graco High Pressure Equipment



Civic Leadership Academy Class of 2016 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 thought 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 IX events held in 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.

PROGRAM RUBRIC

To receive a **Certificate of Graduation**, Civic Leadership participants must attend the retreat, be present to at least 70 percent of the countywide sessions, and participate in at least 50 percent of the group-action project meetings.

Graduates receiving **Honors Recognition** upon graduation will have attended and participated in the retreat, 80 percent of the countywide sessions, and 65 percent of the group-action project meetings.

Distinguished Civic Leadership Graduates will have attended and participated in the retreat, 90 percent of the countywide sessions, and 75 percent of the group-action project meetings.



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



Khadija W. Horton, Erie County Public Defender's Office

To apply for The Civic Leadership Academy 2017, 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 high school, college experience (include degree and minors); any advanced degrees and/or specific training experiences and/or certificates;
 - **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 **Leadership Academy**, 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 Leadership Academy, and what the applicant believes would be her/his strongest contributions to the Leadership Academy and team dynamic.

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

APPLICATION, INTERVIEW, AND ADMISSION PROCESS

- **Applications** will be accepted online at JESerie.org and in person at The Jefferson Educational Society from Monday, April 3, to Friday, May 19;
- Applicants will be admitted to the Leadership Academy on a **rolling-admission basis** until the Civic Leadership 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 24**.

SELECTION PROCESS

Ideal candidates will exhibit strong potential for leadership development coupled with a 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 Leadership Academy staff and its advisory board. The Committee will be tasked with reviewing incoming applications, conducting interviews, and determining admission to Leadership Academy.



Civic Leadership Academy Class of 2015 at the Pittsburgh Retreat

CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CLASSES OF 2015 & 2016

Breanna Adams	Erie County Dept. of Health	2016	Christopher LaFuria	Erie Times-News	2015
Kevin Arrington	Young Entrepreneur Society	2015	Ashley Lawson	Gannon University	2016
Niken Astari	AAUW Erie Branch	2016	Mac Lewis	Cork 1794	2016
Angela Beaumont	The Brock Institute	2015	Tom Maggio	ECGRA	2016
Jay Breneman	Erie County Council	2016	Tiffany McCloud	Harborcreek Youth Services	2016
Michelle Butler	GE Transportation	2016	Michael McCormick	Erie Beer Company	2015
DaWayne Cleckley	WQLN Public Media	2015	April Morrison	Erie Insurance	2015
Chanel Cook	Office of the County Executive	2015	Keith Moses	Erie's Public Schools	2015
Lisa Counasse	WQLN Public Media	2016	Tiffanie Page-Collazo	Erie City Mission	2016
Brian Dorio	Erie Insurance	2016	Ryan Palm	Mercyhurst University	2016
Jennifer Farrar	EmergyCare	2015	Kevin Pollock	F.N.B. Corporation	2015
Ferki Ferati	Jefferson Educational Society	2016	Shawnta Pulliam	Nurturing Hearts, Inc.	2015
Kerry Franz	Erie Insurance	2015	Veronica Rexford	UECDC	2015
Tim Giblin	Corry Redevelopment Authority	2015	Lesley Ridge	Socialution Media	2015
Varun Gupta	Penn State Behrend	2016	William Scholz	Radius Cowork	2015
Andrew Hendersom	Point Security Inc.	2015	Patrick Simpson	Erie Insurance	2015
James Heubel	Cumulus Media	2016	Paul Smola Graco	High Pressure Equipment	2016
Kyle Hinsdale	NE Foods, Inc.	2015	Tiffany Thomas	UU Church Girard	2016
Khadija Horton	Erie County Public Defender's Office	2016	Bradley Triana	BOTH Studios	2016
Andrew Hromyak	USDOJ	2015	Alvin Tucker, II	Wealth Generators	2015
Amanda Iadaluca	County of Erie	2016	Laura Walchack	Retail Management	2015
Alison Kaminski	GE Transportation	2016	Maureen Walls	Erie's Public Schools	2016
Andrew Kerr	Erie City Mission	2016	Matthew Wiertel	Velocity Network	2016
Hannah Kirby	Lord Corporation	2015	Erin Wincek	Erie County Public Library	2015
Andrew Kochirka	Erie Times-News	2016	Nina Wolfarth	Barber National Institute	2015
Halle Kostansek	WQLN Public Media	2016	Perry Wood	ECGRA	2016
Steve Krivonak	NAMI	2015			



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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 that 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.

814-459-8000
www.JESerie.org

