



# The Jefferson Educational Society

## ERIE COUNTY CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2016



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

About The Jefferson Educational Society	2
About The Erie County Civic Leadership Academy	3
Group Action Project	3
ECCL Academy 2016 Schedule	4
Employer Return on Investment	5
Tuition	5
Time Commitment	6
Application and Selection Process	7

*“The ECCL Program afforded me the opportunity to not only gain a better understanding of government throughout our area but also to work closely with a strong group of leaders in taking on a civic project that would be transformational for the area. The knowledge gained and the friendships that were formed are something that I will carry with me throughout my professional career.”*

*– Kyle J. Hinsdale, CFO, NE Foods, Inc.*



## 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 of the present to better build the future of our region, and

through the exploration of contemporary issues facing it and our nation, The JES serves as a platform of discussion and a vehicle for progress to enhance the civic future of Erie and beyond.

## THE ERIE COUNTY CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Launched in 2015, The Erie County Civic Leadership Academy (ECCL) prepares Erie professionals, ages 25 to 45, for meaningful engagement in their community. The ECCL Academy provides a dynamic and unique environment that fosters teamwork, growth, and learning through a transformative experience for those seeking to be agents of change for their community.

Through the ECCL Academy, students examine the inner workings of local governments (county, cities, boroughs, and townships) 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 ECCL Academy informs future 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.

*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 this 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.*



*Twenty-seven graduates made up the inaugural class of 2015*

## GROUP ACTION PROJECT

To apply the lessons learned through The ECCL Academy while utilizing the resources of a community-based think tank, the ECCL Academy participants engage in cooperative learning through a team-based, customized project designed to cultivate civic action in conjunction with analytical-driven research and investigation of critical issues facing Erie County.

## ECCL ACADEMY 2016 SCHEDULE

### Thursday, June 2

5:30 p.m. – ECCL Academy Commencement and Orientation at The Jefferson Educational Society

### Sunday, June 5 to Tuesday, June 7

Retreat to Harrisburg

### Saturday, June 18

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – History of the Erie Region, The Art of Leadership, and Community Renewal in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### Thursday, June 30

T.B.D. – Team Building Activities

### Friday, July 15

2 to 7 p.m. – Understanding Political Impact on the Federal, State, and Local Levels – The Challenges of Running for Office

### Thursday, July 28

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Studying the State of Erie County's Economy and Exploring Innovation in Progressive Global Cities

### Thursday, Aug. 18

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Analyzing Erie County's Urban Core—History, Challenges, Future

### Thursday, Sept. 8

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Understanding Erie County Government—History, Challenges, Future

### Thursday, Sept. 29

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Learning about East Erie County—History, Challenges, Future



*Inaugural Class of 2015 at a Retreat in Pittsburgh.*

### Thursday, Oct. 20

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Learning about West Erie County—History, Challenges, Future

### Monday, Nov. 7 to Friday, Nov. 18

Gaining a Global Perspective – Attending the Global Summit Speaker Series

*ECCL Academy Participants must attend a minimum of four Global Summit Lectures*

### Thursday, Dec. 15

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Understanding Erie City Government—History, Challenges, Future

### Thursday, Jan. 12

Graduation and Reception

*“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”  
– U.S. President John F. Kennedy*

## EMPLOYER RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Through The Erie County 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.

### *ECCL Academy participants will:*

- graduate and return to their employers 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 Erie County Civic Leadership Academy tuition is \$1,500. Tuition covers The ECCL Academy retreat (transportation, lodging, meals) and lunches during sessions.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Limited scholarship assistance is available and will be determined by The Jefferson based on expressed need of the applicant. Those seeking scholarship assistance should express need and merit in the application essay, which explains why the applicant is seeking admission to The Academy.

## ISSUING PAYMENT

Upon recognition of acceptance to The ECCL Academy, applicants must submit partial payment (50 percent) or in-full by Thursday, June 2. Students who have not paid in full by Monday, Aug. 1, 2016 will be dropped from The Academy. Applicants may make arrangements of payment installations upon acceptance to The Academy.

## INTERVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION

- Applications will be accepted from Wednesday, March 23 to Friday, May 20;
- Applicants will be admitted to The ECCL Academy on a rolling-admission basis until the 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 25.

## SELECTION PROCESS

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

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



## TIME COMMITMENT

*The Erie County Civic Leadership Academy is divided into three parts:*

**First**, the ECCL Academy participants must attend the mandatory retreat held in Harrisburg, Sunday, June 5 to Tuesday, June 7. During the retreat, ECCL Academy participants will meet with elected officials to better understand Erie's place in Pennsylvania in addition to engaging with leadership statewide.

**Second**, the ECCL Academy 2016 features seven seven-hour sessions geared to enrich and inform Academy participants' understanding of Erie County's economy, its governments, and leadership throughout Erie County and beyond. To gain a broader understanding of global issues and how they apply to Erie, Academy participants must also attend at least four of the Global Summit VIII lectures held in November. The Academy also features two half-day sessions to explore how campaigns are developed as well as learn the function of Erie's hidden governments. Sessions will be at The Jefferson and throughout Erie County.

**Third**, ECCL Academy participants must work collectively on a common Group Action Project. Committee organization and times of meetings will be at the discretion of ECCL Academy participants,



*Inaugural Class of 2015*

who will present their findings during The Jefferson Educational Society's Winter Term 2017 Programming to the public.

During The ECCL Academy 2016 Graduation, participants will also present their experience and Group Action Project to elected officials, community leaders, and the media. In order to receive a certificate of completion, participants must attend 80 percent of the scheduled activities.

Transportation to the opening retreat will be provided by The Jefferson Educational Society. ECCL Academy participants will be expected to arrange their own transportation to session meetings.

## ECCL ACADEMY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply for The Erie County Civic Leadership Academy 2016, please submit the following either in person at The Jefferson Educational Society or online at JESerie.org:

- **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 or certificate experiences;
  - **Awards and Honors**, detailing the nature of the award and date received;
  - **Civic Engagement and Volunteer Experience**, listing both current and past community-oriented involvement and noting roles held within such organizations and activities;
- **The Names and Contact Information of Three References**, who should be able to attest to the applicant's qualifications for The ECCL Academy, leadership experience and potential, as well as teamwork capacity.

- **Cover Letter\*** explaining what led applicant to seek admission to The ECCL Academy, which should address past leadership experience, what the candidate hopes to gain through The ECCL 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.

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

*“One of the prime truths of leadership is ‘nothing happens until someone makes it happen’ – leaders are people, who in combination with quality teams, make things happen. As John F. Kennedy said, ‘one person can make a difference.’ Leaders are difference makers who make things happen. The Greater Erie Community needs difference makers – it needs people who make things happen. Become a leader, become a difference maker for Erie.”*  
– Andrew Roth, Ph.D. President-Emeritus,  
Notre Dame College



3207 STATE STREET  
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA  
16508-2821

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

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](http://www.JESerie.org)**



**ECGRA GRANT MONEY WORKS HERE!**

[ecgra.org](http://ecgra.org) 814-897-2690

The Jefferson Educational Society is a member of the Brookings Metropolitan Leadership Council and the Chairman's Circle of the Brookings Council.