

Leadership Mendocino

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Leadership Mendocino is a community leadership program that seeks to strengthen local communities by developing a diverse group of emerging and established leaders who will get involved to make a difference.

Brief Program Description: Leadership Mendocino is a community leadership program that seeks to strengthen our communities by developing a diverse group of people who will get involved and make a difference. We help emerging and established leaders see our county and its issues in a new light, and we give them the opportunity to build important peer networks.

Who We Serve: We seek emerging and established leaders who are shaping our local future. More than 100 different businesses, organizations and agencies have sent employees through the program, and we now have more than 500 graduates.

Established: The program was established in 1992.

Funding: We raise the money to support our program from class participants and local donations. Our 2013 budget is \$77,430

How We Operate: We offer a ten-month training annually, meeting once a month from August through May in different locations across Mendocino County, California. The program includes a leadership skills workshop, team building, and access to an impressive network of existing leaders.

Beginning with a framework of leadership skill building at the opening retreat, we proceed to demonstrate leadership in action across Mendocino County through field visits, panel presentations, brainstorming sessions, class discussions, problem-solving workshops, hands-on experiences, and role playing.

How Many People We Serve: We serve approximately 30 people each year, and they in turn serve hundreds. Leadership Mendocino participants take the knowledge they gain from the Leadership Mendocino program to become a positive, community-improving force.

Life Without Leadership Mendocino: Although some may think of Leadership Mendocino as a program about getting a bunch of business people together to rub elbows and share stories, the real function and focus of the program is so much more. Each year 30 or so diverse individuals come together to form a cohesive group that explores all things Mendocino County – the good and the bad. Together, they get a better understanding and broader picture of the needs and challenges, strengths and resources of this



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lovely place we all call home. Each class day provides the participants a chance to learn, explore, discuss, and interact, providing them with insights they could never have gotten from the everyday information available to most. With this broader perspective, Leadership Mendocino participants are then challenged to give back to the County through board service or a specific project. Some of our most recent projects include a free CPR training held in Potter Valley and sponsored by Ukiah Valley Medical Center, and the Adopt a Window project to provide funding and manpower to replace the single-paned windows of a Project Sanctuary shelter home. The list of graduates of the Leadership Mendocino program during the past 20 years has included some of the most dedicated and passionate community members in our County's history. Only they can tell you the difference Leadership Mendocino made for them. If you know one of them, be sure to ask!