

LEADERSHIP LAS CRUCES 2012

Leadership Las Cruces

Guiding future business generations to success

The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce kicked off the 2012 Leadership Las Cruces class, the premier leadership program in southern New Mexico, with a full class of 28 participants on Friday, March 16.

This year marks the fourth straight year of growth for Leadership Las Cruces applicants, which adds to the strength and diversity of the program.

"We are very proud of the Leadership Las Cruces program and its commitment to developing current and future leaders in our community," said Bill Allen, Chamber president/CEO. "The success of the program is very evident through the increase in applicants each year."

The program began with an orientation session, which served as an opportunity for class members to meet, an introduction to teamwork and communication and a lesson in the area's rich history.

As part of the two-day orientation, members of the class were able to get an in-depth look at the early history of the state from local historian and New Mexico State University professor Jon Hunner, who taught about the beginnings of Las Cruces and Mesilla, as well as the key players and issues in the fight for New Mexico's statehood.

Class members were able to enjoy lunch with many Leadership Las Cruces alumni, a tradition of Leadership Las Cruces, who shared their experiences with the program over the years as well as stories of past class activities and their most memorable moments.

After a lesson in effective communication through True Colors training by Las Cruces Public Schools' Brenda Figueroa, the class heard from the living history panel of long-time area residents. Members of the panel were William Mattiace, Heather Pollard, Monte Marlin, Erlinda Martinez and Gary Esslinger. Each panelist shared their stories about what brought them to and kept them in the Mesilla Valley, the growth of the community over the last 40 years and their organizations' roles in the success of the region.

The second day of orientation focused on more training and an explanation of the rest of the year to come. Following teamwork and networking activities, the class was split into groups of four, each tasked with developing the curriculum for an entire day on a specific



Rob Richardson, who has chaired the Leadership Las Cruces program since 2005, was honored at the alumni lunch for his commitment to the program.

topic of the Las Cruces area's economic engine, including small businesses, health care, education, military, agriculture, state and local government and other community topics such as the arts, tourism and law enforcement.

Co-chairs and Leadership Las Cruces alumni Audrey Evins, Rob Richardson, Stacie Christiano, Rick Altamirano, Mike Walczak, Terrie Todd and Chamber Communications and Leadership Director Joel Courtney lead the Leadership Las Cruces program.

This year's program is sponsored by Memorial Medical Center. Other sponsors for the 2012 Leadership Las Cruces program include Citizens Bank, U.S. Bank and the Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico.

"The Chamber continues to improve and expand Leadership Las Cruces every year," Courtney said, "and we are excited to increase the development of leadership training and techniques as a part of the 2012 program."

The Chamber will continue to provide more opportunities for Leadership Las Cruces alumni to stay involved and connected with each other. If you or anyone you know is a past graduate of the Leadership Las Cruces program and are not receiving information from the Chamber, please call Joel Courtney at 524-1968 or joelcortney@lascruces.org.



Monte Marlin, Bill Mattiace, Gary Esslinger, Erlinda Martinez and Heather Pollard, the Living History Panel, shared their stories of life in the Mesilla Valley.



The 2012 Leadership Las Cruces class and co-chairs held the orientation session at Lorenzo's de Mesilla Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17.



Members of the Leadership Las Cruces class participate in a team-building activity as part of the Saturday session.

LEADERSHIP LAS CRUCES CLASS OF 2012



Andrea S. Dresser, MS
Owner
Counseling Las Cruces



Janet Honek
Owner
Sunspot Solar Energy Systems



Matt Thompson
Vice President
Bobannon Huston



Sara Patricolo
Program Manager
New Mexico State University Domenici Institute



Ann DeBooy
Chief Nursing Officer
Memorial Medical Center



Jeff Giffing
Owner
Cruces Trophy & Awards Center



Michael A. Stubbs, PE
President
Stubbs Engineering



Stella Shelley
Clinic Administrator
Shelley Eye Center



April Anaya
Chief Professional Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Cruces



Jo Galván Nash
Communications & Policy Development Director
Las Cruces Public Schools



Patty Thomas
Branch Manager
MEI Technologies



Stuart Young
Assistant Vice President
BANK'34



Blanca Cenicerros
Mechanical Engineer
White Sands Missile Range



Julie Hughes
Director Internal Communications & Public Affairs
New Mexico State University



Renaye Charlet
Branch Manager, Assistant Vice President
Pioneer Bank



T.J. Hicks
Administrator
Sagecrest Rehabilitation & Nursing Center



Bret Moody
Vice President
First American Bank



Leslie Martinez
Business Member Service Representative
FirstLight Federal Credit Union



Rico Gonzales
Director of New Mexico Affairs
El Paso Electric



Veronica Gallegos
Retail Store Manager
AT&T Mobility Services



Heidi Melendrez
Advertising Director
Las Cruces Sun-News



Lorenzo Alba, Jr.
Executive Director
Casa de Peregrinos



Roseanne Bensley
Associate Director
NMSU Career Services



Victoria Fredrick
Manager, Rates & Economic Analysis
City of Las Cruces



Janet Acosta-Clifton
Sales Manager
Las Cruces Convention Center



Mark Winson
Assistant City Manager, CAO
City of Las Cruces



Samantha Sanchez
Interim Director of Women's and Children's Services
MountainView Regional Medical Center



Wendy A. Boetticher
Partner
Everett & Boetticher, PC