



Leadership Asheville

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Images Available Upon Request

Community Impact Award and Annual Luncheon Kick-Off LA 28 Program

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – September 23, 2009

Leadership Asheville gathered Wednesday, September 16th at Asheville's new event space, The Venue- to discuss new community initiatives and partnerships, as well as honor both the graduated Class of 2009 and the incoming Class of 2010.

Highlighting the afternoon festivities was the recognition of three Buncombe County students, Jacob Edwards (Erwin High), Michael Hickey (Owen High) and Seth Fox (North Buncombe High), for outstanding community leadership and service. Jacob Edwards was the recipient of the first ever "Community Impact Award", an annual award/ scholarship that will be presented to a western North Carolina citizen on behalf of Leadership Asheville.

Incoming class participants launch Leadership Asheville 28 Class this week with a two-day retreat at The Crest Center. Lew Bleiweis of Asheville Area Regional Airport Authority said, "As the airport director and a newer resident of this community, I expect to gain knowledge of the internal workings of the community as well as getting to know the community leaders. Since the airport is an important asset to this community and the other counties of western North Carolina that we serve, I look forward to finding out how we can utilize the airport to its fullest extent to better serve the economic needs of the area."

Members of The Leadership Asheville 28 Class include: John D. Beatty, The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, Lew S. Bleiweis, Asheville Regional Airport Authority, Jamie Bolak, MOVE Communications, Connie Bowes, Daniel Boone Council, Steven D. Busey, WCQS/WYQS, Wayne R. Butler, Eaton Corporation, A. Leisa Capps, Southern Community Bank and Trust, David C. Carr, Montreat College, Judy J. Daniel, City of Asheville, Ally Donlan, Warren Wilson College, Jeffrey G. Donlop, Van Winkle Law

Firm, Leslie A. Elliot, University of Phoenix, Laresa M. Fair, United Way of ABC, Susan D. Garrett, Garrett and Associates, Lisa Gatewood- McMillan, Exquisite Events and Consulting, Dena P. Gettleman, Asheville City Schools, Mark R. Goldstein, Communication Mark, Inc., Gordon L. Grant, Asheville City Schools, Blaine Greenfield, Community Volunteer, Susan M. Hammond, Mountain Housing Opportunities, L. Frances Harvey, Homeward Bound, Eileen Hutchison, Community Volunteer, Jeremy B. Jordan, The Buyers Agent of Asheville, Barbara Keaton, AB Tech Community College, Cathy M. Kramer, Warren Wilson College, Emi Kubota, i play, Inc., Jana T. Lechner, Junior League of Asheville, R. Fielding Lowe, Jr., BB&T, Jessie S. McClain, Mission Hospital, Jo. L. Peterson-Gibbs, Asheville City Schools, George J. Pfeiffer, U Save Car and Truck Rental, Hayley R. Roper, McGuire, Wood and Bissette, PA, Selenah J. Seabrooks, Progress Energy, Stephen R. Shoaf, City of Asheville, Russell A. Towers, Lewis Real Estate, Michael S. Trayford, Hampton Wellness, Garry A. Whisnant, Progress Energy, Marcia B. Whitney, Rathbun Center and Jeremy M. Wilde, Mountain Home Care.

Established in 1982, Leadership Asheville has graduated more than 1000 representatives of the region's economic, service and governmental sectors. Drawing from profit and non-profit organizations, local government officials, private industry executives, university professors, stay-at-home parents, and school administrators, Leadership Asheville's graduate network covers a diverse array of interests, opportunities and challenges inherent to the region. Strategic, Community and Media partners include Southern Community Bank & Trust, The Van Winkle Law Firm, The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, UNCA, Mission Health Systems, WCQS and The Asheville Citizen-Times. Please visit www.leadershipasheville.org or contact Executive Director, Gerry Goertz at ggoertz@leadershipasheville.org for additional information.

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