



## **Leadership Asheville**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Images Available Upon Request

### ***Leadership Asheville Graduates Largest Class To Date***

**ASHEVILLE, N.C.** – May 27, 2009

Representatives from Leadership Asheville's Board of Trustees, Co-Chairs K. Ray Bailey and Richard Hurley were on hand at The Crest Center on May 20, 2009, to award diplomas to the largest graduating class to date.

Individuals from diverse sectors of the community enjoyed the final graduating day by listening to final class speaker, Mack Pearsall, and reviewing and presenting final Leadership Learning Team Projects, all centered on youth based initiatives. The day capped a productive nine-months of project-based community involvement.

Graduates of The Leadership Asheville Class of 27:

Dan Anderson of Southern Community Bank and Trust, Marilyn Ball of Kelso Advertising & Design, Sherman Bass of The City of Asheville, Jan Blunt of Buncombe County Schools, Bob Bolak of Asheville Radio Group, Blake Boyd of The Buyer's Agent, Bradley Cain, a Community Volunteer, Michael Carter of Mission Health Hospitals, Christina Corey of The Asheville Citizen-Times, Julia Damore, a Community Volunteer, Jerrell Deaver, Jr. of First Citizens Bank, James Diaz, Jr. of CoveStar Investment Realty Advisors, John Dietrich of Asheville Savings Bank, Carl Donovan of Conservation Pros, Julie Duriga of Julie L Duriga, CPA, Lance Edwards of The United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County, Jeffrey Ferezan of AB Tech Community College, Kyley Ferris of Hall Fletcher Elementary School, Bill Feste of Owen Middle School, Tim Flora of The Buncombe County Finance Department, Rae Geoffrey of The Diana Wortham Theatre, Brian Gompers of Carolina First Bank, Tracy Gualano of The Junior League of Asheville, Nikki Gunter of The City of Asheville, Marie Hall of Buncombe County,

Latessa Johnson of Asheville City Schools, Tom Keever of Valley Springs Middle School, Wanda Lanier of NC Outward Bound, John Locke of The Mission Foundation, Christine Sykes Lowe, a Community Volunteer, Brenda Macauley of The Aesthetic Gallery, Lance Martin of Ward and Smith, P.A., Molly McNichols of Justin Winter & Associates, Amanda Meyers of Mountain Housing Opportunities, Merry Brooke Michalsen of Buncombe County DSS, Phillip Murphy of Phil Murphy Household Management, Heather Nelson of Pack Place, Sarah Nunez of Western Carolina University, John O'Neal of GDS Asheville, Sharon Gentry Owen of The Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation, Jeffrey Piccirillo of The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, David Plaisance of Financial Strategic Decisions, Inc., Mary Lynn Powell of Eaton Corporation, Rev. Jim Pritchett, Jr. of The Episcopal Diocese of WNC, Brian Repass of Community Action Opportunities - Head Start, Michael Richardson of M & R Enterprises, Michael Rottjakob of The Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association, Tami Ruckman of The YWCA of Asheville, Linda Saylor of Wachovia Securities, Cynthia Sellinger of Vance Elementary School, Georgia Shannon a Community Volunteer, Roderick Simmons of The City of Asheville, David Smith of Pisgah Community Bank, John Mark Stroud of Spake Real Estate, Monique Taylor of UNC Asheville, Eric Thorp of Christ School, Fred Waldkoetter of Mountain Biz Works, Inc., Don Watson, Jr. a Community Volunteer, Kristen Weaver of YMCA of WNC, Peter Wehr of Progress Energy, Shelley White of AB Tech Community College and David Wilkerson of Van Winkle Law Firm.

A full listing of all class **youth-based projects** are available for public view at: [leadershipasheville.org/PDF/projects/LA 27 Youth Project Descriptions.pdf](http://leadershipasheville.org/PDF/projects/LA_27_Youth_Project_Descriptions.pdf)

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 divers array of interests, opportunities and challenges inherent to the region. Applications for the 2009-2010 Class of Leadership Asheville are currently available.

Please visit [www.leadershipasheville.org](http://www.leadershipasheville.org) or contact Executive Director, Gerry Goertz at [ggoertz@leadershipasheville.org](mailto:ggoertz@leadershipasheville.org) for additional information.

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