

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

64 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 Phone: 201-489-9454 Fax: 201-489-1995
www.bergenvolunteers.org

For immediate release

March 6, 2012

Repeat Through April 4, 2012

Contact: Amanda Missey

(201) 489-9454 Ext. 119

Civic Leadership Program Hosts Informational Open Houses Bergen LEADS seeks Candidates for its Class of 2013

North Jersey—Informational Open Houses are planned for March and April to introduce the community to Bergen LEADS, an innovative, 10-month learning and leadership program for adults who live or work in Bergen County. This premier program is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. Applications are now being accepted for the Bergen LEADS Class of 2013; the open houses are intended to answer questions about the program and give applicants an opportunity to meet and speak with alumni, current class members and faculty.

Under the guidance of former Bergen County Executive William “Pat” Schuber, the LEADS Seminar Director, participants are immersed in a stimulating curriculum that not only introduces them to topical issues of local importance, but also enables them to explore their leadership styles, enhance their leadership capacity and become meaningfully engaged in helping to solve some of the challenges facing Bergen County.

The application form for the Class of 2013 – which will begin meeting in September, 2012 - can be downloaded at www.bergenleads.org and is due by April 13. Each candidate must fill in a simple individual profile form and provide essay answers to specific questions.

Free Informational Open Houses for potential applicants will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Mar.14—Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, 25 Main St., Hackensack , 8:30 am -10:00 am
- Wednesday, March 21—Homewood Suites, 125 Route 17 South, East Rutherford, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
- Wednesday, April 4--- TD Bank, 1100 Lake St., Ramsey, 8:30 am- 10:00 am

Those interested in attending an Open House must pre-register by contacting Amanda Missay at 201-489-9454 ext. 119 or email amissey@bergenvolunteer.org

The culmination of the Bergen LEADS experience is that, ultimately, a network of knowledgeable, committed leaders will have to tools and connections to work together and solve some of Bergen County’s most pressing challenges.

“A persistent question facing leaders in every sector is where will the next generation of leaders come from?,” says Janet Sharma, the Center’s executive director. “Bergen LEADS will help provide the answer by preparing acknowledged and aspiring leaders to take the helm in the years ahead.”

“Diversity of participants is essential,” continues Mrs. Sharma. Applicants are encouraged from business, nonprofit, civic and faith-based organizations and government agencies as well as from the community at large. Bergen LEADS seeks representation from the broad array of ethnic, racial, religious and socio-economic groups within Bergen County. Scholarships are available to ensure that all qualified applicants are able to participate.

Bergen LEADS also has an active alumni component – Alumni of Bergen LEADS (ABL) – which sponsors events, forums and other networking vehicles to keep LEADS alumni engaged and active in Bergen County.

Founded by the Junior League in 1966, the mission of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating model direct-service volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

###