

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ERIE COUNTY CLASS OF 2009

Youth Leadership Erie County is a nine month leadership enrichment program. As the future leaders of our community, high school sophomores and juniors across Erie County are invited to participate. The curriculum builds a foundation of leadership skills development, an awareness of community issues, an appreciation for diversity of our metropolitan region, and a commitment to lifelong involvement in community service.

The program assembles a diverse group of students who have leadership potential, but who may or may not have had experience in positions of leadership at their schools or in their volunteer work in the community.

THE CLASS PROGRAM

Youth Leadership Erie County begins with an overnight retreat conducted by professional facilitators in September. Using group activities designed to promote dialogue on leadership, self-esteem, and future goals, the orientation retreat creates a team atmosphere. Each year Graduates of YLEC assist with the overall design and facilitation of the retreat. Attendance at the two-day opening retreat is **mandatory** for participation in Youth Leadership Erie County.

Day sessions are scheduled on Thursdays, October - May, from approximately 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm and are held in various locations throughout the community. Topics that may be included are Criminal Justice, Diversity, The Arts, Leadership Development, Community History, Economic Development Day and Poverty. The program ends in May with a special evening graduation celebration.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is required at the Opening retreat, at all eight sessions and the community service activities. Only one excused absence will be allowed. Transportation to and from each session is the responsibility of the student. Transportation within each session will be provided. Agendas and other information will be mailed to the student and his/her school prior to each session.

APPLICATION

To receive an application for the Class of 2008, please go to www.leadershipbuffalo.org or contact the Leadership Buffalo office at 849-2626, ext. 16. Forty-five students from throughout Erie County will be selected by a committee of community representatives and YLEC Graduates. After selection, all applicants will receive notification of their status. Because the Youth Leadership Class strives to reflect the diversity of the students of Erie County, we regret that all qualified candidates may not be accepted into the program.

Youth Leadership Erie County is a program of Leadership Buffalo, a 501(c)3, not for profit corporation that unites leaders from diverse backgrounds and perspectives in order to increase their understanding of community issues, broaden their vision, and enhance their ability to lead. There is no cost to participants. Youth Leadership Erie County is a program of Leadership Buffalo in cooperation with the Children's Foundation of Erie County, Erie County Department of Youth Services, the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, The Hunt Foundation and HSBC.