



Dear Friends,

2013 was another outstanding year for Bergen LEADS. We seated our sixth class, an amazingly diverse and talented group of leaders. We are now 132 graduates strong – graduates that are forging connections, making contributions and strengthening Bergen County. We continued to enrich our curriculum, providing our participants with more tools for their leadership toolbox and a wealth of unique experiences and information .

The annual Bergen LEADS report card is – for us – a time to reflect on what we’ve accomplished. And we’ve accomplished a lot, which we share with you now.

William “Pat” Schuber
Seminar Director
Bergen LEADS

Lynne H. Algrant
Seminar Co-Director
Bergen LEADS

Amanda Missey
Director
Bergen LEADS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

**PUBLIC FORUM:
THE FUTURE OF
NONPROFITS**

The Class of 2013 class project focused on the long-term health of the nonprofit sector. With almost 1,200 public charities in Bergen County, nonprofits constitute a significant portion of the local economy. Slow recovery from the Great Recession has nonprofits scrambling to provide services and fulfill their mission in the face of diminishing resources and increasing need. The class recommended new strategies for nonprofit success based on months of research into the response of local nonprofits to the economy and innovative models being embraced by other communities.

FIFTH FRIDAY

Bergen LEADS presented three sold-out Fifth Friday luncheons, which have become the region’s most anticipated networking events. Topics included heritage tourism, Jersey Shore renewal and recovery from Hurricane Sandy, and a fascinating – and highly entertaining – look at the results of the 2013 elections in New Jersey. High profile speakers, hot topics and leaders from every sector are an excellent fit with LEADS’ stated purpose of enhancing civic leaders, expanding networks and exploring current issues.

“**BECAUSE OF LEADS, MY NEW
NONPROFIT BEREAVEMENT
CENTER IS WELL-POSITIONED
TO SUCCEED!**”



CAFFIE RISHER, CL12
GOOD MOURNING MINISTRY



“**BERGEN LEADS MADE
ME A BETTER LEADER IN
MY COMMUNITY AND
IN MY OWN BUSINESS.**”



JHOVANNY RODRIGUEZ, CL11
SYNETEK SOLUTIONS



ENHANCED CURRICULUM

The Class of 2013 experienced the first-ever Bergen LEADS Arts Seminar, recognizing the significant role that performing and visual arts play in the cultural life of the County. Last year’s addition of the Positive Leadership training component was well received and is now a permanent feature of the program. Beginning with the Class of 2014, LEADS has incorporated additional tools to help participants understand their leadership and communication styles with an EQ – or Emotional Intelligence – assessment that measures how individuals perceive, control, and evaluate emotions.

**ALUMNI OF
BERGEN LEADS (ABL)**

ABL is a dynamic graduate organization created to maintain and develop relationships, serve the community, learn about local needs and resources, influence public policy and ensure program sustainability. All-Class Happy Hours are now a permanent ABL fixture, encouraging camaraderie amongst graduates and members of the current class. Social activities included the inaugural Leaders on the Lanes bowling event and a highly-competitive softball game as part of the annual summer barbecue.

NEW STAFF

In January, Bianne DeGuzman joined the Bergen LEADS team. Her superb organizational and event management skills have contributed to the exceptionally smooth operation of the program. She coordinates all of the Seminar Days, Fifth Friday events and many ABL activities. Bianne hails from the Phillipines and has been a flight attendant for Saudi Airlines, so brings some very different perspectives to the Bergen LEADS office! She lives in Hackensack with her husband Mark (LEADS ’13) and daughter Deanna, the first Bergen LEADS baby.



“**LEADS WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING
AND NETWORKING EXPERIENCE THAT
INSPIRED ME TO SEEK NEW VOLUNTEER
AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.**”



MEREDITH LEE, CL13
BUSINESS CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

