



**LEADERSHIP**  
GREATER SYRACUSE

# INSPIRE

April 2019

## *From the Executive Director*

I was inspired by our flagship program's recent Envisioning the Future Day where we discussed the many opportunities and positive forces in our community. The conversation got real as we talked about who has and who doesn't have access to this bright future and, most importantly, the role each of us can play. We learned that we all can do something to ensure that this bright future involves everyone.

This leads me to the diversity of the LGS Class of 2019. It is my observation that this is the most diverse class I have seen in the six years I have been executive director. With our year-over-year surge of applications, we have been successful in improving all categories of diversity, but this class shines because of its socioeconomic diversity. In their interviews, many of them talked about being raised in poverty as well as in privilege. I can't wait to watch this class unfold as they get to know each other better. We can never predict what people will do with the insights and connections they gain through LGS, but I am confident that this diversity, at this community flashpoint, will mean great things for Central New York.

I am thankful to do my part to serve our mission. We are a small organization making a HUGE impact. That impact would not be possible if it were not for our founders, the open-minded individuals who participate in our three programs, and for those who support us financially with tuition, individual gifts and sponsorships. As an LGS champion, you can keep up with all of our outcomes by following us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

Simply stated, LGS makes our community better!  
Pam



**Pam Brunet**  
*LGS Executive Director*  
*Class of 1998*

## *Come to Let's Get Social, April 25*

In the spirit of LGS, this year's Let's Get Social event invites you to experience a place you have yet to see! Central New York's premier networking event is April 25, 5:30-8 p.m., at The Fitz – a speakeasy within Oh My Darling Restaurant, at 321 S. Salina St., kitty corner from the Landmark Theater. The evening features food, a silent auction and residential tours of the Whitney Lofts that are also part of the renovated building.

We will also honor the winner of the 2019 LGS Alumni Achievement Award, **Olive Sephuma**, Class of 2004 from Interfaith Works.

Tickets are \$50. To register for Let's Get Social or for more information, [click here](#).

*See you there!*



## County Executive, Mayor Speak to the Community



National Grid provided the setting for a special forum with Onondaga County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II and Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh. A joint presentation of LGS and FOCUS, the January 31 event was moderated by Spectrum News reporter and anchor, Iris St. Meran. The pair addressed a number of topics, including poverty, education and infrastructure and answered questions from area residents that filled the auditorium. McMahon and Walsh kicked off the evening by signing the renewed city-county sales tax-sharing agreement.

## 'Congrats' to the PLI Class!

Congratulations to this year's CNY Political Leadership Institute (PLI) class who recently completed the eight-session program. This nonpartisan training program teaches community members how to navigate the political process and includes speakers and representatives from all parties. The program is co-chaired by political strategist and a VP for the NYS Democratic Party Joe Rossi (D) and Onondaga County Chair of the Legislature David Knapp (R).



## 'Introducing ...'

To help everyone get to know each other better, the Class of 2019 played a game of "Pitch It" at Opening Retreat where they get to interview and introduce one of their new classmates. Pictured, Bill Nicholson (left) of AccessCNY introduces Ishrat Ahmed of Pathfinder Bank.

## Look Ahead



**Swing into Action** Start making plans to attend the 2019 LGS Golf Classic, Thursday, June 20, at The Pompey Club. The popular captain & crew event again includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, course beverages, and full dinner reception with one-hour open bar.

Tickets are \$600/foursome for the 12 p.m. shotgun start. Several sponsorship levels are also available. For more information, contact Robin Macaluso at [robin@leadsyr.org](mailto:robin@leadsyr.org).

**Apply Today (Yes, for 2020!)** We may have just started the 2019 program, but it's never too early to start thinking about 2020 – our 30th class. You can apply for LGS with our [online application](#). Come be a part of this unique experience. If you're an alumni, forward the link to a friend or colleague.

**Looking for Board Opportunities?** Don't forget to check out our website where we promote exploratory conversations between nonprofit boards and individuals. If you want to post an open board position, email [karen@leadsyr.org](mailto:karen@leadsyr.org) and she will send you the easy to complete form!

