



# INSPIRE

April 2024

## *From the Executive Director*

The past six months have been a whirlwind. The LGS experience continues to evoke feelings of reward, pride in Central New York, and trust in humanity. As I continue to learn about this formidable LGS community, I am lucky to have met so many talented and committed people during my journey so far. I'm excited to share about the fantastic work underway at LGS this year: a new 2024 flagship class, the first graduating class of our Syracuse University Local Leadership Initiative, a visit from the New York lieutenant governor, our 15<sup>th</sup> year of the CNY Political Leadership Institute, and more.



**Michele Diecuch**  
Executive Director

Alumni, I encourage you to reach out at any time and share your thoughts and ideas. LGS's longevity, quality of programming, and civically engaged participants are attributed to the passion of the collective LGS family. [michele@leadsyr.org](mailto:michele@leadsyr.org)

## *The First Graduating Class of the Local Leadership Initiative*

The Local Leadership Initiative, new in 2023, is a partnership between Leadership Greater Syracuse and Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management. On April 5, the program graduated its first cohort of students.

Over the fall and spring semesters, 12 Whitman students participated in a six-part program designed to increase their awareness of that CNY has to offer, build connections with key leaders, augment leadership and project management skills, and promote giving back to the Syracuse community. In addition, the diverse class with students from those as close as Liverpool and as far away as Greece fostered relationships and taught students how to work creatively with those who are different from them.



Sara Garvey, Director, Corporate Relations at Whitman School said, "It was fantastic to watch students grow and flourish throughout the program while being exposed to all that the Syracuse community has to offer. It opened their eyes to the economic growth and possibility for the future in Central New York."



The six class days (4-6 hours in length) followed many of the same themes as the LGS flagship program—DEI, education, economic development, and more. Participants visited local businesses such as VIP Structures, Salt City Market, Acropolis Realty, and the Samaritan Center. They learned from key community leaders and entrepreneurs in the area to help broaden their perspectives as they make plans for entering the workforce.

“A goal of this program is to educate students about all that Syracuse has to offer and encourage them to invest their talents and ambition locally to help build generations of successful employees and community members,” Michele Diecuch, LGS executive director, said.



Funded through a grant by local business leader David Panasci, the Local Leadership Initiative is a three-year program with year two set to begin in September 2024.



## LGS Class of 2024 is Underway

The flagship program Class of 2024 has begun!

A group of 51 individuals from 48 CNY employers are participating this year. Starting off with a full agenda at the two-day opening retreat at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, class members will participate in nine themed class days through the year including: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Day; Education Day; Envisioning the Future Day; and more.

Participants will be immersed into the current and historical affairs on the CNY area while they develop leadership skills and learn about civic engagement opportunities that will help our community thrive.



## Applications for 2025 Are Open

And at the same time as the Class of 2024 is in full swing, applications (and details) for the Class of 2025 are now open on the [LGS website](#). The deadline is **August 31, 2024**. It's never too early to apply!

Contact Michele Diecuch, [michele@leadsyr.org](mailto:michele@leadsyr.org) or Robin Macaluso, [robin@leadsyr.org](mailto:robin@leadsyr.org) with questions.

## Participation in CNY Women's Summit

Leadership Greater Syracuse was proud to be part of the **CNY Women's Summit** held on March 8—International Women's Day. The summit, presented by the CNY Women's Network, was a full-day event designed to connect, inspire, and celebrate the accomplishments of women in Central New York.

Attended by hundreds of women in business, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs, the summit included panel discussions and fireside chats with women leaders from across the community along with a vendor fair, roundtable discussions, and a networking social hour.



## New York State Lieutenant Governor Delgado Visits LGS

Leadership Greater Syracuse was lucky enough to be one of the Central New York stops for Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado on February 29. Lt. Governor Delgado was in Syracuse to share information about the new State Office of Service and Civic Engagement and Governor Hochul's new "Inspire Stronger Communities Through Public Service Opportunities" initiative. It aims to increase civic engagement to help community-based organizations elevate their impact on underserved community constituents. The LGS mission of inspiring current and future leaders to make a difference in the community where we live and work aligns seamlessly with the purpose of this new state office. We look forward to supporting and assisting Lieutenant Governor Delgado in launching this new initiative.



## CNY PLI Celebrates 15 years



The CNY Political Leadership Institute (CNY PLI) held a graduation and networking event for the 2024 participants. The class of 18 participated in a robust and comprehensive eight-week program where they learned the mechanics of running for office and participating in political campaigns. Co-chaired by Democrat Joe Rossi, managing director at Park Strategies and Dave Knapp, Onondaga County legislator, CNY PLI has historically helped inspire and launch campaigns for several political offices including judges, common councilors, and clerks.



## Golf Anyone? Sign Up Now!



Leadership Greater Syracuse's annual Golf Tournament fundraiser will be held on **August 15, at The Pompey Club**. To register, please contact LGS Program Director Robin Macaluso at [robin@leadsyr.org](mailto:robin@leadsyr.org).

Teams tend to sign up quickly, so sign up your foursome now! The day will include a fun day of golf, food, beverages, raffles, games – and of course sunshine!



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