# LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS PROGRAM FOR EMERGING LEADERS CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2014!

***By Lori Fuchs***

Congratulations to the 2014 class of Leadership Essentials, who successfully completed their six-month leadership development program at a June 5 Closing Session at Loyola University Maryland. The Leadership Essentials program, instituted by Leadership Howard County in 2007, is now managed by Loyola University Maryland as part of the Sellinger School of Business. Similar to Loyola's graduate business programs, Leadership Essentials develops skills that allow our participants to stretch their leadership potential and contribute significantly to their organizations, their families and their community. The Leadership Essentials Class of 2014 members were also recognized at the Leadership Howard County Annual Dinner on June 12.

The twenty young professionals who comprised the Leadership Essentials Class of 2014:

Patricia Achterhof, Strategic Wealth Management
Ali Alzand, Howard Tech Advisors
Yonas Berhane, Howard Community College
Adam Eastham, Enterprise Community Investments
Amber Forrester, National Archives
Angela Gilmour, JHU Applied Physics Laboratory
Kristen Groves, Columbia Association
John Harrison, Enterprise Community Trust
Bryan Hollander, Enterprise Community Investments
Amy Hurst, COPT
Kursten Jackson, Howard County General Hospital
Kirsten Lichtner, Loyola University Maryland
Ana Liesch, The Columbia Bank
Chris Lucas, Columbia Association
Caroline McCabe, Monsters Dance
Jimmy Motsay, Habitat for Humanity
Jeremy Scharfenberg, Columbia Association
Robin Senecal, American Office
Jennifer Sifuentes, Howard County Public School System
Scott Templin, Columbia Association

The Leadership Essentials program includes three core components: Skill-building workshops, Coach Experience and a Community Impact Project. The six skill-building workshops are each focused on a specific leadership characteristic – teambuilding, relationships, project management, presentation skills, strategic thinking – and include self-assessment, exercises and reflection to facilitate their ability to sharpen critical skills necessary for effective leadership.

Throughout the six months of the Leadership Essentials program, each participant works with their volunteer coach to help them more deeply explore their leadership journey, enabling them to better make decisions and strengthen their relationships and leadership skills.

Participants also work as part of a team of 3-5 members on a Community Impact Project that challenges them to put their lessons learned and leadership skills in action. A Community Impact Project is identified by a host organization – typically a nonprofit organization or government entity. The teams work with their CIP host organization on a consultant basis, addressing an organizational challenge or strategic issue; typically the team members will perform research and propose creative and sustainable solutions. This experience is designed to be a beneficial experience not only for the organization but for our participants as well, helping them gain a better understanding of community needs and a deeper appreciation for community involvement.This year's project hosts included: Grassroots, Hammond High School, Patuxent Institute, Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults and Villages of Columbia. Our Leadership Essentials 2014 CIP Hosts were thrilled with the work of these Project Teams!

We look forward to recruiting another fantastic class for Leadership Essentials 2015! Applications are available in July, with a deadline in early October. Information sessions will be held in August and September. Visit Loyola.edu/sellinger for more information. Please contact me for more information about our program – to send a participant, or volunteer with us!

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