

Leadership Harrisburg Area  
Graduation Remarks

First I want to take a few minutes to thank several individuals. Thank you Una Martone for your leadership of the program. Thank you for the time that you spent creating an experience for all of us here. Thank you as well Marla Sheaffer for your dedication and time spent as well. You both worked hard to create an environment that would challenge us all here to learn more about our region and that laid the groundwork to be better leaders within the community.

As a token of our thanks, we wanted to present you with a gift.

Thank you also to Sharon Ryan, and to the entire Board of Leadership Harrisburg, your enthusiasm and your presence throughout our journey was felt and appreciated.

I also wanted to take a minute and thank my family at Arcus. It was due to the urging of our company president Doug Firestone, and our Vice-President Scott Reilly, that I take part in this program, and I am so happy that I did, so thank you to Arcus, which by the way, is definitely the best place to work in PA.

I would also like to thank my partner, Stuart, for inspiring me, daily, and for keeping me in line, which is often difficult to do.

Now, let's get down to business, I certainly want to thank the Class of 2008, which will go down in history as the best class ever, am I right guys? As a class we felt compelled to back up that statement just a bit. Thanks to the leadership of Rob Muscalus we were able to raise funds for programming activities for Leadership Harrisburg. The total amount of money raised was \$1528. Thanks so much to the entire class for participating and also I think it is safe to say we have set the bar for future classes to follow suit.

We live in a wonderful region, the Harrisburg area is blessed with an abundance of resources, and there is so much to see and do. It is an excellent place to do business and a great place to work. We have urban centers, surrounded by suburban communities, mixed with rural areas. We have mountains, lakes, and rivers, in fact our area is often defined by this river that separates many of us, but hopefully as our area grows, maybe that river can do more to unite us as a greater community. But more importantly we live in a region that has needs. Needs that call out and implore us as a community to do more. What a wonderful way to do so by bringing together people from all parts of our region who play different roles and who have so many wonderful gifts to give. The group standing behind me represents the best of our community.

I really feel that what we were able to tackle through this program was more than just talking about leadership, which at the core was the intent, but it was more than that. We needed to understand our region, how it works and what makes it the community that it is. The city of Harrisburg is a wonderful urban center which has gone through so many changes and is truly a vibrant center of our community. But it is made stronger by the very presence of the surrounding towns. We spent a great deal of time discussing the need for our area to mobilize and for the greater Harrisburg area to work more closely on issues that affect our region as a whole. I think this class is a perfect example of how possible that is.

Nine months is quite a journey and I reflect back on the weekend we all met for the first time at Allenberry. It was like the first day of school, but it didn't take long to get to know each other. I wish I could single out everyone behind me. It was amazing to get to know you all but I do want to mention some individuals. In terms of 9 months a lot can change, just ask Sabina Grant-Spencer who welcomed a beautiful baby girl in March, or Shawn Caufield, who got married in October. Congrats!!

I also wanted to point out Autumn, who was a trooper and spent a few class sessions on crutches, but seems to be walking around just fine now : )

One the first day of class, I sat down next to Audry Daly, and within a few minutes we realized a connection we had shared. Interestingly enough, we met over ten years ago, when we were both finishing up our undergraduate studies and waiting tables at Ruby Tuesdays, how funny we meet again 10 years later at Leadership Harrisburg.

I learned so much about leadership through this program and I attribute that to the people we met along the way who led sessions and opened their organizations to us. Each **Leader** had such wonderful characteristics and their stories and their involvement in the community stands out and should be recognized. I realized that the concept of leadership really can boil down to an individual or a group of individuals who are willing to stand out and make a difference. I really wanted to highlight some of the people we met along the way tonight.

At our opening retreat we had the opportunity to meet Jody Silliker, from Holy Spirit Hospital. She also runs the Medical Outreach Center in Allison Hill which seeks to serve those without access to medical care. Jody is a prime example of someone who exemplifies a servant leader. She gives so freely of herself and works so hard for a community that is unfortunately overlooked. We got a chance to tour the facility in November. What she does and the effort that she has put into it are inspiring, and I left that facility deeply impacted by the service that she provides.

In December we were able to spend some time discussing Justice and Public Safety. During this time we had the pleasure of meeting The Honorable La Von Postelle who serves as a

Magisterial District Judge. He serves the community with integrity and works hard to ensure that those appearing before him receive fair attention. He also shows compassion mixed in with a dose of some tough love.

In March, we had a day devoted to government and politics. We were able to hear from local elected officials. At the end of the day, we had the opportunity to hear from Mayor Reed. I admire his commitment to the city, and I was struck by his devotion and his focus on creating opportunities for economic development. His vision for the city of Harrisburg has been steadfast and his dedication has been unparalleled.

I also wanted to highlight the team of Dr. Gerald Kohn and Dr. Judy Botel, Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Harrisburg City Schools. Their commitment to improving the quality of education within the city and the strides they have made thus far are inspiring and their efforts should not go unnoticed.

I also had the pleasure of working closely with Jeanne Troy, Director of Development for Catholic Charities. Her display of passion and exuberance were contagious and it is evident that she enjoys what she does and that what she does serves an important need in our area.

These individuals are making a difference in the Harrisburg Area, and their work often goes without notice or fanfare. But they work tirelessly to make this a better place to live not just for you and me, but for people who need it the most and who are often without a voice.

It is from these Leaders and this experience that I learned the following about leadership:

It is important to serve. One of the most important traits of a good leader is the desire and willingness to serve others.

Integrity, Fairness, and compassion are important attributes that a leader should possess.

It is also important to persevere, have a vision, and stick to the sense of purpose that comes out of that vision.

Commitment to success and reaching a goal are vital to leadership.

But also important is passion, a good leader is passionate about what they are doing.

There is so much that I wish I could share with you all about this experience, and I could probably talk for hours about my experience with Leadership Harrisburg, but I will spare you that.

I would like to close by mentioning that a key component of this experience entailed breaking into groups and working on a project for a designated non-profit organization. Last week we

had the opportunity to hear from each group about their project and the outcome of their efforts. The organizations served by these projects were the following:

Catholic Charities of Harrisburg, the Immigration and Refugee Service

The Shalom House

Harrisburg Young Professionals

Dauphin County Library System

The Red Cross

I wanted to personally commend and thank my fellow classmates for their efforts on these projects. I know I can speak for everyone here that the experience of working with these organizations was memorable and inspired many of us to want to continue working with these organizations. I wanted to give special mention to the people that I got a chance to work with on Team Catholic Charities. I enjoyed the time we spent together immensely and will miss our regular meetings, but I also really benefited by the gifts each of you brought to our project.

I would like to close with a bit of a challenge. Every day we witness so much that happens in our community, and as we graduate from this wonderful program, we carry with us a new sense of purpose in serving our community. I would like to challenge everyone here tonight, our colleagues, friends, and spouses to also be willing to serve our community as well. Collectively each and every one of us here tonight can meet a need and just by doing a little bit we can affect our region as a whole for the better.

Now I would like you all to stand up. Last week we had the pleasure of working with Dana Zamoyli who is a Professional Coach. She challenged us all to use our bodies to indicate a desired reaction, so I am going to show you a little something that we are all going to do together. To my classmates, please help out.

Put one foot forward, and as you put your hands forwards, say with meaning, "This is what I want you to do". Everybody got it? Ok, so now I want to do this together, but this time after you say this is what I want you to do, I want you to add, Serve the Community.

On the count of three, let's do it together. 1, 2, 3:

This is what I want you to do, Serve the Community

Thank you for the opportunity to address you tonight.