

Southwest New Mexico Leadership Program

Engaging, Developing, and Inspiring Community Leaders

Overview

The Southwest New Mexico Leadership Program provides professional development to support and inspire a new generation of men and women for leadership roles in New Mexico. It will challenge and prepare individuals from diverse backgrounds to become influential in the future our southwestern counties and of our state.

The Southwest New Mexico Leadership Program is a 4-month program dedicated to providing

- Participants with skills and tools to be effective community and work-force leaders with an understanding of the area's history, diversity, government, economy, environment, education, human services, and health care.
- The opportunity to actively address needs of our communities and to explore and develop their own professional and personal interests.

The program year consists of Friday and Saturday sessions over a four month period beginning in January and ending in April.

Southwest New Mexico Leadership Program participants embark on a journey that puts them in touch with the southwest New Mexico area, as well as each other. In addition, "hands-on service projects" focus on solutions to real community problems. Projects support positive community change or enhanced community knowledge, as well as providing participants an opportunity to put into practice the skills and tools they learn as part of the program.



The program expanded my knowledge of my community and made me aware of important issues that I can be a part of. So much of what I learned has been applied to not only my professional life, but my personal life as well. Setting goals and building a plan to obtain those goals was one of my greatest achievements during the program. The instruction was exceptional, the camaraderie was outstanding, and the food was excellent!! — 2009 Class Graduate

What are the overall themes of the SWNM Leadership Program?

- Leadership training becomes part of the community's infrastructure.
- Participants gain skills to support their community leadership aspirations.
- Networking brings people, ideas, and solutions to the forefront and builds a climate that fosters common understanding among various community groups.
- Enhanced community knowledge strengthens and broadens involvement in community affairs.
- Difficult issues can be addressed in a collaborate environment.
- Our community assets expand to meet future challenges.

Who are the SWNM Leadership Program participants?

Twelve to eighteen individuals to be selected annually. Area businesses, public and private agencies, civic groups, and other organizations are asked to identify and sponsor individuals with leadership potential for the SWNM Leadership Program.

Participants are chosen from written applications reviewed by a selection committee. Each class represents a rich diversity of backgrounds.

The program is open to

- Community members that want to learn how to make a difference in their community
- Existing community leaders
- Newcomers to the community
- Youth through senior citizens
- Any individual who wants to be a part of his/her local community
- Board members of non-profit organizations

Commitment Requirements

Attendance Requirements and Employer Support

Participants in the Southwest Leadership Program who are sponsored by their employers must have the support and a letter of commitment from their employer. This ensures the employee will be able to fulfill the program requirements and that the business/employer is supportive of community involvement by the participant.

To successfully complete the SWNM Leadership Program, participants must comply with minimum attendance requirements. As an expression of the participant's personal commitment, participants are expected to attend and actively participate in each of the sessions.

Program Tuition

Tuition of \$500 covers the cost of program materials, facilities, and meals/refreshment associated with the program. Cost of overnight accommodations, if necessary, will be the responsibility of the participant or his/her sponsoring organization. **Scholarships to cover tuition may be available in cases of financial need.**

Program Sponsorship

The SWNM Leadership Program is a non-profit program sponsored by Western New Mexico University in collaboration with other interested entities in the area. The program is supported by tuition, contributions from area organizations, local businesses, and WNMU.

2010 Program Schedule

January 22 & 23
February 12 & 13
March 19 & 20
April 9 & 10

Session Hours

Fridays
1:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Saturdays
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

How to Apply

Applications are available at Western New Mexico University's Office of Institutional Advancement or electronically through the email address below. The deadline to apply is **December 15, 2009**.

Contact Us...

Southwest Leadership Program

Western New Mexico University
Silver City, New Mexico
For more information call 575-538-6348
or email inquiries to Kathie Gilbert
gilbertk@wnmu.edu



A University Worth Discovering

Program Benefits to the Employer

- You have an employee who is much better educated about his/her community
- Your employee's leadership skills are strengthened
- Your employee is now linked to a new and growing network of area leaders and professionals
- You position your business as one committed to the community's quality of life

Employees/Participants

- Discover/expand leadership strengths and sharpen critical skills essential for effective, results-oriented leadership
- Gain increased confidence in working with groups, managing conflict, and leading effective meetings
- Build momentum. Receive a bird's-eye view of the issues and challenges facing southwest New Mexico
- Reap the rewards of networking with an expanding and diverse group of community leaders
- Help build momentum and increase capacity for positive, sustainable change within your community

Area Communities

- An increasing source of informed and dedicated community leaders
- An improved communication network among civic, social, healthcare, educational, government and business leaders
- An expanded leadership base with a broadbased perspective prepared to more effectively guide southwestern New Mexico communities into the future