



leadership **aberndeen** **SCRAPBOOK**

Learn. Serve. Connect.

Leadership Aberdeen, established in **1987**, is a comprehensive program of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce designed to develop leadership skills in a fun, friendly, and fast-paced environment. Participants are challenged to consider what makes them a leader, and what skills they need to enhance to make a difference in their workplace, community, and region!



Dale Stein **LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE A W A R D**

Dale Stein was President and CEO of Avera St Luke's from 1979 until his death in 2002. His tenure at this position is quite impressive considering the many changes in healthcare and the consolidation of two competing delivery systems in Aberdeen. Dale had a strong sense of service to his employer and the community where he lived. He was an ardent supporter of the Leadership Aberdeen program, and ensured that Avera St. Luke's had at least one candidate in each class. Dale was unique in his style, and he epitomized leadership through service. Glenn Jakober of Avera St. Luke's said "My first witness of Dale's commitment to service was the Christmas Eve of 1988. Most of the office had left at 3:00 pm and I was still working at 4:30 pm when Dale showed up at my office door with Christmas treats. I was impressed that the CEO of the organization was not at home with family as he easily could have been, but chose to spend some time at work serving the employees. I found out that he was back at the hospital at 11:30 pm doing the same routine, serving treats to the employees who were assigned to work and were not able to be with family."

The Dale Stein Leadership through Service Award has been presented to one member of the Leadership Aberdeen class since 2004 to honor the memory of Dale and is underwritten by Leadership Aberdeen Alumni working at Avera St Luke's. The inscription on the award really describes Dale very well, "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the quality of his actions and the integrity of his intent. In the end, leaders are much like eagles....they don't flock, you find them one at a time.

The following Leadership Aberdeen alumni have received the Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award:

2004	JoEllen Lindner, Presentation College
2005	Chris Larson, Northern Electric Cooperative
2006	Guy Trenhaile, Healthcare Plus Federal Credit Union
2007	LJ Warren, Mutual of Omaha
2008	Wendy Mette, Volunteers of America
2009	Derek Ricci, Dakota Broadcasting
2010	Marne Neiger, Bobcat Company
2011	Jessi Stucke, Aberdeen American News
2012	Alex Grieben, Dacotah Bank
2013	Rachel Haigh-Blume, Northeast South Dakota Area Health Education Center
2014	Patricia Kappes, Avera St. Luke's
2015	Matt Pearson, South Dakota Wheat Growers
2016	Darin Beckius, Dacotah Bank
2017	Steve Huettl, JDH Construction
2018	Christopher Malsom, Avera St. Luke's
2019	Andrew Miller, Sanford Aberdeen
2020	Katie Schreurs, Banner Engineering
2021	Heidi Johnson, Liquid Capital of the Dakotas
2022	Rebecca Biegler, Aberdeen Housing Authority
2023	Brandon Duxbury, Dacotah Prairie Museum



The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce launched its Leadership Aberdeen program in a press conference held in July of 1987. Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Jim Lust and committee chairwoman Susan Meidinger unveiled the details of the new program designed to:

- Identify potential leaders, both men and women, drawn from diverse sectors of the community
- Equip emerging leaders with a broader and deeper understanding of the problems, opportunities and resources existing with the Aberdeen area so that they may more affectively assume responsibility for civic affairs.
- Stimulate both a commitment to the Aberdeen area and better appreciation of the role of the community within a regional and state framework
- Facilitate the development of communication networks among emerging leaders of diverse constituencies as well as between current and future leadership
- Create a permanent forum for individuals of demonstrated commitment to the Aberdeen area to gather and exchange ideas.

Leadership Aberdeen was initially discussed by the Chamber's Board of Directors at its annual planning session in 1985 as a way to cultivate potential and emerging leaders. The Chamber committed to organizing the program annually to provide a continual supply of qualified, educated leaders to serve the Aberdeen area in a variety of capacities.

In June of 1988 the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce won the right to fly the red, white and blue C-Flag, the symbol of the President's Citation Program for Private Sector Initiatives sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives. National Program Director Eric Johnson said "We were greatly impressed with the Leadership Aberdeen Program and the Aberdeen Chamber's dedication to the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. You are now in a select group of companies and associations nationwide that have demonstrated a strong public spirit and have shown how effective the private sector can be in addressing public needs."

Since 1987, the Leadership Aberdeen program has maintained this core curriculum, but now includes tours of local businesses and community business partners who facilitate program sessions.

This book is designed to celebrate and recognize the Leadership Aberdeen family. That family includes those who have participated in the training program as students, the businesses and organizations who have supported the program by sending employees, providing tours and training, and financially contributing to the program, and the alumni and volunteers who have facilitated various sessions and been part of the overall process.

A TRUE LEADER

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, to listen to the needs of others. They do not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the quality of their actions and the integrity of their intent. In the end, leaders are much like eagles... They don't flock, you find them one at a time."

- (unknown author)

1987

fun facts

- ▼ After many years of research, a new drug AZT was used for the treatment of AIDS
- ▼ England suffers one of the worst storms in history when hurricane force winds hit much of the south of England
- ▼ Disposable contact lenses became available for commercial distribution
- ▼ Prozac made its debut in the United States
- ▼ Televangelist Jim Baker's sex scandal led to resignation from the ministry
- ▼ The Simpsons were seen on TV for the first time
- ▼ Popular films include: Three Men and a Baby, Fatal Attraction, Good Morning Vietnam, The Untouchables, Lethal Weapon and Dirty Dancing
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Whitney Houston, Bruce Hornsby, George Michael and Bryan Adams
- ▼ US President was Ronald Reagan

**NOTE FROM
STEVE KAISER**
Class of 1987

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

The leadership class was truly a learning experience about Aberdeen and the area, and I had lived in the area for more than 10 years. You get to learn about the community from the inside out. The leadership training was also terrific. Working in groups you find they have abilities to reach correct conclusions more often than we can as individuals. Plus the camaraderie you build leads to long term relationships with other class members. I highly recommend it.



1987 Leadership Aberdeen

The Inaugural class of Leadership Aberdeen consisted of 21 local men and women and kicked off in the fall of 1987. Sessions included presenters such as Mayor Tim Rich, Lars Herseth and other community and business leaders. They discussed the current and past Aberdeen power structure and how it operates, as well as other areas of politics.

Governor William Janklow was the featured speaker at the graduation ceremony and urged graduates to look to the future and to assume various roles of responsibility saying "It's what you want to make out of things that really makes the difference." Paul Darling was chosen to speak on behalf of the class and encouraged each to help spur Aberdeen's growth and prosperity. Diplomas were presented by Chamber Board President Terry Baloun and Executive Vice President Rex Hammond.

Class participants were:

Joel Albrecht, Eide Helmeke & Co.
 Jeff Canfield, KKAA
 Paul Darling, United Federal Savings and Loan
 Gary Deibert, Lust Chevrolet
 Cindy Eikamp, Aberdeen American News
 Dick Engler, Aberdeen Public Schools
 Julie Fountain, St. Luke's Hospital
 David Hahler, Lust Chevrolet
 Rolf Johnson, Johnson Motors
 Steve Kaiser, KQKD Radio
 Steve Larson, Larson Concrete

Ken Loken, Norwest Bank
 David Poplau, K.O. Lee Company
 Bob Porter, Jr., Levi, Engelhart, Wolff & Co.
 Mel Rousseau, Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Darrell Stitt, KKAA
 Jodi Stitt, Stitt, Jodi
 George Sullivan, Resources, Inc.
 Sherry Tebben, Presentation College
 Don Wenell, First Bank
 Gene Wiegand, Brown County Commssioner & NE SD Head Start

1988

LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

FUN FACTS

- ▼ The Hubble Space Telescope went into operation to explore deep space and is still in full use today mapping our universe
- ▼ A bomb exploded on Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland on December 21st
- ▼ Prozac was sold for the first time as an anti-depressant
- ▼ Great movies of the year include: Rain Man, Die Hard, Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Big, Twins, The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad and A Fish Called Wanda
- ▼ One gallon of gas was 91¢
- ▼ A new drug, Crack, appears (a derivative of Cocaine) and was increasingly found in US Cities
- ▼ The first transatlantic fibre optic cable was laid to carry 40,000 telephone calls simultaneously
- ▼ Stephen Hawking Published "A Brief History of Time"
- ▼ The first major computer virus infects computers connected to the Internet
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Robert Palmer, Erasure, Kylie Minogue, U2, The Beach Boys, Gloria Estefan and Chicago with "Look Away"
- ▼ Ronald Reagan was US President

NOTE FROM GLENN JAKOBER (Class of 1988)

The community leaders that visited the second Leadership Aberdeen class were Vi Stoia, Former Aberdeen Mayor Bill Hauck and County Commissioner Tom Oster. Some of the "young turks" of my time, at times, implied that Vi's influ-

ence was somehow an ill gotten gain. That evening Vi was asked whether he was his "own man," or if he was a spokes person for someone else? Vi responded that his wife had more influence over his decisions than did anyone else.

Now Bill Hauck and Vi Stoia were very different individuals and probably had very little in common other than the betterment of Aberdeen. At the conclusion of his remarks Former Mayor Hauck said this, "When all the discussions were done and it was time to go to work on a community project, invariably Vi would be standing there asking, how can I help?" This was a genuine Eureka moment for me. I realized that Vi's influence was derived from his willingness to serve. Sometime later I had an opportunity to share that insight with Duane Harms, and he said, "Glenn, be thankful that you recognized that statement for its true worth, not many people have."

I had several opportunities to be around Vi in a work group before he passed away, and it was a real treat to be part of the process. He was not the most vocal or domineering person in the group, but he definitely was the most insightful. It is no small wonder that he is the only person to receive the George Award twice.



1988 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

Twenty-four local men and women participated in the second leadership program which kicked off September 30, 1988. Facilitating the program were Dick Engler and Steve Larsen. Graduation ceremonies were held in December and Reverend Tom Poole of Trinity Baptist Church spoke on behalf of the class. In his speech, Reverend Poole thanked the other participants for being so open and understanding of one another and said " We represent 24 very different people from different walks of life. Each of us has contributed to the class in a unique way and each of us has learned different things. We have been challenged by different viewpoints and remember things in our own unique way."

Class participants were:

Kendall Aldinger, Miller-Huebl Funeral Home
 Tom Berg, Aberdeen Public Schools
 Tim Bergstrom, Eide Helmeke & Co.
 Monte Bertsch, Super 8 Motels, Inc.
 Spence Buchanan, Lust Chevrolet
 Bruce Eisenhower, Main Street Aberdeen
 Homi Erani, K.O. Lee Company
 R. Shane Ferguson, Internal Revenue Service
 Arden Gilbert, Norwest Bank
 Sam Gingerich, Northern State University
 Judy Hable, Internal Revenue Service
 Dean Hass, Internal Medicine Associates
 Alan Hoerth, Board of Education
 Sharry Holler, Ramkota Inn

Glenn Jakober, St. Luke's Midland Regional Medical Center
 Marje Kaiser, SD Board of Regents/SD School for the Blind
 & Visually Impaired
 Brian Kamerud, Kamerud Chiropractic Clinic
 Brian Ladwig, The Waterbed Room
 Joy Nipe, SD Student Loan Corporation
 Cheryl Olson, Aberdeen American News
 Tom Poole, Trinity Baptist Church
 Lisa Sahli Carlsen, Aberdeen Convention Association
 Joe Senger, First Bank
 Jeff Sudlow, Wright & Sudlow

1989-1990

fun facts

- ▼ Microsoft released it's Office Suite including Spreadsheet, Word Processor, Database and Presentation Software which today still dominate in office applications
- ▼ Massive protests against the Berlin Wall brought about the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the East German Government. Both are dismantled which lead, after many years, to the reunification of East and West Germany.
- ▼ George Bush Sr. became President of the United States
- ▼ Scientists pronounce 1989 was the warmest on record, possibly a sign of the greenhouse effect
- ▼ The first episodes of the Simpsons were shown
- ▼ Following the Iraq invasion of Kuwait, Desert Shield begins as the United States and UK sent troops to Kuwait
- ▼ The US entered a bad recession which had repercussions over the folowing few years throughout the world
- ▼ President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed a historic agreement to end the production of chemical weapons
- ▼ The first known case of AIDS was traced back to 1959
- ▼ Milli Vanilli's producer reveals that the Grammy winning pop duo were lip synching the songs on the album which gained them the award
- ▼ Popular movies include: Twins, The Little Mermaid, Ghost, Home Alone, Pretty Woman, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Dead Poets Society, When Harry Met Sally, Dances with Wolves, The Hunt for Red October, Parenthood and Driving Miss Daisy
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Duran Duran, Prince, Madonna, New Kids on the Block, Paula Abdul, Tears for Fears, Janet Jackson, Rod Stewart, Jon Bon Jovi, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Billy Joel, Vanilla Ice with "Ice Ice Baby", Whitney Houston, Aerosmith, Cher and The B-52's

**NOTE FROM
STEVEN LUST**
(class of 1990)

Leadership Aberdeen was a great way for me to learn about how local government and business cooperate to help increase commerce in Aberdeen. I had the opportunity to meet many people outside of the circle that I worked in; creating great contacts and friendships for future projects. I attended Leadership Aberdeen nearly 20 years ago and I am amazed at the number of class attendees that I still have relationships with and still live and work in Aberdeen. My experience was a great one!



1989-1990 Leadership Aberdeen



In the fall of 1989, the Leadership Aberdeen program, originally scheduled to be held at the end of September, was postponed and the program did not begin until January 1990. The program included topics on management, decision making, and power structure and how it all fits together for our community. The orientation facilitator was Roberta Miller of Roberta Miller Associates of Watertown, MA. Other presenters included David Reizes, IRS; Lowell Christensen, 3M; Duane Harms, Harms Oil; Jim Glover, Hub City, Inc.; and Jim Bishop, Educational Assistance Corporation. The third class graduated on March 13, 1990. The class elected Jerry Soholt to speak on their behalf. Jerry emphasized how the class members can and should make a difference in the community of Aberdeen armed with their new perspectives. Soholt also said "the growth experience will enhance both personal and professional aspects of their lives."

Several in the class were quoted after graduation in the Aberdeen American News about the program. Lon Bahr said "You could almost get high off listening to the dynamics of the group." Roger Krumvieda said "It really gets you pumped up. It has really opened my eyes to vision." Kay Albright said "One thing we have all brought away from this group is the group itself. It's going to become a very strong newtwrk of support in the future."

Class participants were:

Kay Albright, Northern State University
 Lon Bahr, FMC Corporation
 Mark Benson, First Bank
 Gary Blythe, Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce
 Rick Delzer, Village Cable of Eureka
 Pam Donelan, Presentation College
 Bob Eldridge, Internal Revenue Service
 Abby Erani, Aberdeen Public Schools
 Scott Ferguson, Brown County United Way
 Hollis Hurlbert, Kyburz Carlson Construction

Kerry Johnston, Johnston Agency
 Roger Krumvieda, Exhaust Pros
 Glen Larson, 3M Company
 Darrell Leenderts, K.O. Lee Company
 Roger Legge, Western Printing Company
 Steven Lust, Lust Chevrolet
 Bob Ringgenberg
 Jerry Soholt, St. Luke's Midland
 Ron Van Dyke, St. Luke's Midland
 Mike Wiese, US West Direct

1991

fun facts

- ▼ Following the Iraq invasion of Kuwait, a United Nations Coalition Force including USA, Arab and European countries Bombed Iraq Forces in Kuwait
- ▼ Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of the band Queen, died on the 24th of November from AIDS
- ▼ Notable technology advances include: the Airbag, a blue rose (through the use of genetic engineering) and Tim Berners-Lee introduced the web browser
- ▼ Internet was made available to unrestricted commercial use and the number of computers on the net reached 1 million
- ▼ The American Galileo spacecraft made its closest approach to 951 Gaspra, becoming the first probe to visit an asteroid
- ▼ The spread of Cholera reached near epidemic proportions in Countries in Latin America
- ▼ The release of Nirvana's Nevermind signified the start of the Grunge era that would dominate the music scene up to the mid-90's

**NOTE FROM
KAREN ANDERSON**
Class of 1991

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

Leadership Aberdeen was an **AWESOME** experience! The leadership skills and community information were a great asset. What I enjoyed most was meeting new people that I would not have met otherwise! The networking opportunities helped build relationships I cherish. The Leadership program benefits you personally and professionally! Congratulations on achieving 25 years!



1991 Leadership Aberdeen

The chairman for Leadership Aberdeen 1991 was Sam Gingerich of Northern State University. Courses in 1991 focused on specific management styles, group decision making, formal and informal community leadership in politics and power, how class members fit in into the process, and creating visions for the future. Other curriculum committee members were Steve Larson, Sherry Tebben, Marje Kaiser and Bob Eldridge. Gingerich was quoted as saying "Our goal is to provide the best possible curriculum for the highest caliber candidates in our community. The end result will be an even better Aberdeen."

Class participants were:

Karen Anderson, Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce
 Tinea Anderson, Aberdeen Area Arts Council
 Wayne Avery, F & M Bank
 Mike Burbach, Aberdeen American News
 Betsy Carey, Presentation College
 Alan Chapman, Norwest Bank
 Rick Daughtery, Aberdeen Development Corporation
 Jim Harr, Narregang Insurance
 Kim Heiden, K.O. Lee Company
 Keith Hurley, Home Federal Bank

David Johnson, Security Bank & Trust
 Faye Kann, NECOG
 Steve Kohles, Student Loan Finance Corporation
 Tom Penrod, Redfield Investment Services
 Tim Renelt, St. Luke's Midland
 Christina Sedlacek, Internal Revenue Service
 Eva Steen, First Bank
 Kristi Fischer, Wagner, Northern State University
 Keith Weller, Microage Computer Center
 Shelley Wieck, Siegel, Barnett & Schutz
 Larry Wirebaugh, 3M Company

1992

fun facts

fun

- ▼ The first Nicotine patch was introduced to help stop smoking
- ▼ DNA fingerprinting was invented
- ▼ Minnesota's Mall of America was constructed, spanning 78 acres
- ▼ Mafia boss John Gotti was sentenced to life in prison after being found guilty of conspiracy to commit murder and racketeering
- ▼ Bill Clinton became US president, defeating George H. W. Bush & Ross Perot
- ▼ Windows 3.1 was released by Microsoft
- ▼ Space Shuttle Endeavour had a successful maiden voyage
- ▼ Bosnia Herzegovina declared independence - A three year war followed between Muslims, Serbs and Croats prompting UN intervention
- ▼ Popular Films include: Aladdin, Home Alone 2: Lost in New York, Batman Returns, Lethal Weapon 3, A Few Good Men, Sister Act, The Bodyguard, Wayne's World, Basic Instinct, Unforgiven and Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Nirvana, Primal Scream, R.E.M., Madonna, U2, The Cure, Kiss, Genesis, Mariah Carey, House of Pain and Bon Jovi

**NOTE FROM
CINDI WALSH**
Class of 1992

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

When I was a really, really, really young banker, I had the great fortune to get involved with the Leadership Aberdeen program offered through the Chamber. That experience exposed me to many things in the community of which I was unaware, and helped me realize how I could give back by being involved. It helped give me a glimpse the inner workings of a number of businesses in the Aberdeen area, and helped me form lifelong associations with a people from a wide variety of industries. In addition, I just know that if I ever need to get a group of people to form a circle while blindfolded and holding onto a bunch of jump ropes tied together, I will already have the skill and experience to do so, thanks to Leadership Aberdeen!



1992 Leadership Aberdeen

The 1992 Leadership Aberdeen consisted of 20 local men and women. Sam Gingerich was the 1992 Chairman and Bob Eldridge served as the program Vice Chair. A total of 10 sessions were held.

At the graduation ceremonies, Ed Bosanko, Chamber President and Leadership Chairman Sam Gingerich presented the diplomas. Pete Kirkpatrick spoke on behalf of the class. Duane Harms, 1991 George Award Recipient and Elaine Reizes, 1991 Athena Award Recipient were the keynote speakers.

Class participants were:

Bob Bohn, 3M Company
 Kathy Brawner, KKAA
 LaRue Cantwell, Internal Revenue Service
 Don Erlenbusch, Northern State University
 Daryl Friesen, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Pius Heier, K.O. Lee Company
 Michelle Horn, Internal Revenue Service
 Bebe Janish, St. Luke's Hospital Midland
 Pete Kirkpatrick, Kirkpatrick's Jewelry
 Linda Lenling, F & M Bank

Greg Maag, NECOG
 Janet McKichan, St. Luke's Hospital Midland
 Ruth Perin, Ramkota Inn
 Shannon Schaffer, Northern State University
 Gary Schweitzer, Norwest Bank
 Thomas Seyer, Narregang Insurance
 Peggy Stoddard, St. Luke's Hospital Midland
 Charles Tuomi, 3M Company
 Cindi Walsh, First Bank
 Mike Warnke, Holiday Inn

1993

fun facts

- ▼ For the first time, Islamic Fundamentalists bombed the World Trade Center
- ▼ A devastating tsunami, caused by an earthquake off Hokkaido, Japan killed 202 on the small island of Okushiri
- ▼ The first bagless vacuum cleaner was invented
- ▼ Intel introduced the Pentium Processor
- ▼ Windows NT 3.1 was released by Microsoft
- ▼ World Health Organization W.H.O. estimated 14 million people worldwide were infected with the AIDS Virus
- ▼ Space Shuttle Endeavour had a mission to repair an optical flaw in the Hubble Space Telescope
- ▼ The first cloning of a Human Embryo was by two American Scientists
- ▼ Police began investigations of child abuse by Michael Jackson
- ▼ Popular Films include: Jurassic Park, Mrs. Doubtfire, The Fugitive, The Firm, Sleepless in Seattle, Indecent Proposal, In the Line of Fire, The Pelican Brief, Schindler's List and Philadelphia
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Janet Jackson, Snoop Doggy Dogg, Rage Against the Machine, UB40, Aerosmith, Madonna, Rod Stewart, Whitney Houston, Meat Loaf and The Proclaimers

**NOTE FROM
ROB KEIL**
Class of 1993

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

Leadership Aberdeen provided an introduction as to how the City of Aberdeen functions and allowed me to jump-start my networking with many community leaders and individuals. It also instilled in me that the success of a community is based on the volunteers that go out and "get it done". From Leadership Aberdeen, I developed a sense of responsibility to my community to "give back" as much as possible to make this city and area the best it can be.



1993 Leadership Aberdeen

20 local men and women participated in the 1993 program. Sessions were facilitated and organized by several Chamber volunteers and past Leadership alumni including: Sherry Tebben, Marie Miller, Bob Thompson, Marje Kaiser, Helen Miller, Jim Bishop, Mie Wiese, Betsy Rice, Clark Swisher, Patty Kirkpatrick, Faye Kann, Larry Wirebaugh, Jim Barringer, and many more.

The class graduated on March 16, 1993 at the Holiday Inn. The class selected Ron Pollwork to speak on behalf of the class and also heard from the 1992 George Award Recipient Jack Thompson and 1992 Athena Recipient Kae McNeil, as well as Mayor Tim Rich.

Class participants were:

Bruce Baumann, NECOG
 Ken Boutell, K.O. Lee Company
 Roger Brokke, Aberdeen American News
 Lori Cope, Holiday Inn
 Barry Coughlin, St. Luke's Midland
 Ted Ekanger, 3M Company
 Ellen Engelhart, Northern State University
 Janell Feller, Aberdeen Area Arts Council
 Nancy Kappes, F & M Agency
 Rob Keil, First Bank

Kevin Mather, Ramkota Inn
 Peg Nelson, Internal Revenue Service
 Mick Niess, St. Luke's Midland
 Ron Pollworth, Northern State University
 Ron Prehn, Norwest Bank
 Jim Shaff, 3M Company
 Brad Sullivan, Midco Theaters
 Rod Triplet, Northern State University
 Gregg VonWald, Tel Serv
 Jean Wetzler, Internal Revenue Service

1994

TRIVIA FACTS

- ▼ After many years the English Channel was opened joining England to France for the first time
- ▼ In the US the first genetically engineered tomatoes became available
- ▼ Tonya Harding won the national Figure Skating championship title but was stripped of her title following an attack on her rival, Nancy Kerrigan
- ▼ OJ Simpson fled police in his white Ford Bronco
- ▼ World's first satellite digital television service was launched
- ▼ Netscape Navigator was released & quickly became a browsing leader for the web
- ▼ Lisa Marie Presley married Michael Jackson
- ▼ Kurt Cobain of Nirvana committed suicide
- ▼ Popular Films include: Forrest Gump, The Lion King (Disney), True Lies, The Santa Clause, Dumb & Dumber, Clear and Present Danger, Speed, The Mask and Pulp Fiction
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Bryan Adams, Sheryl Crow, Bon Jovi, Erasure, Snoop Doggy Dogg, Boys II Men, Blind Melon, Celine Dion and the Beastie Boys
- ▼ Popular Television includes: Law & Order, America's Funniest Home Videos, The Ren & Stimpy Show, Beavis and Butt-head, Frasier, NYPD Blue, The Late Show with David Letterman and The X-Files

**NOTE FROM
WARD SCHUMACHER**
Class of 1994

I participated in the program with 23 other business men and women from Aberdeen and the surrounding area. We even had a participant from the Eureka Development Corporation that traveled the 60 miles in terrible winter conditions. One of the most important things that I learned in the class was the networking opportunities that exist within our community. To this day, I am in contact with many of my classmates and have worked with them on fundraising events to benefit the Aberdeen area. Our local service clubs, the Chamber and most importantly our business community have reaped the benefits of this leadership program.

Mr. Stoia encouraged the class to stay active in our community to ensure the growth and the health of the place we chose to live. Leadership Aberdeen certainly gives participants access to key leaders in our community who are willing to share experiences and knowledge. The program has obviously grown since its inception and is a true asset to Aberdeen.

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**



1994 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

The 1994 Leadership Aberdeen program kicked off on January 7, 1994 with 26 class participants. Larry Atkinson of the Mobridge Tribune facilitated the Phillips 66 technique to the class and Don Artz spoke on the history of Aberdeen and the region.

Class discussions focused around what our community could do to retain our youth in Aberdeen and the area after graduation and the importance of having Highway 281 as a bypass truck route around the city. What started as a discussion is now a reality, with the Highway 281 bypass officially opening in 2002.

It has been stated by a couple members of the class, that 1994 was an extremely cold winter. Some members of the class even had to go so far as to wait in the bar and grab a beer after class waiting until their cars heated up. Hmmm...should we buy that story?

At the graduation ceremonies, the class selected David Lambert with NECOG to speak on their behalf. Keynote speakers were 1993 George Award Recipient Vi Stoia and 1993 Athena Award Recipient Virginia Tobin.

Class participants were:

Vicky Beck, Norwest Bank
 Vickie Brokke, March of Dimes
 Sue Cook, Tel Serv
 John Dahlgren, Student Loan Finance Corp.
 Wayne Desart, First Bank
 Barbara Guthmiller, Eureka Development
 Pat Hale, 3M Company
 Mel Heinz, St. Luke's Midland
 Mary Hickey, Internal Revenue Service
 Barb Johnson, KQKD Radio
 Jean Jones, Aberdeen Convention Association
 Carla Kaaz, Aberdeen Chamber
 Mike Kampa, Norwest Bank

Dennis Kennedy, 3M Company
 Dan Kotuem, FMC Corporation
 David Lambert, NECOG
 Diane Lerseth, Northern State University
 Alison Lien, Harms Oil Company
 Sarah Mann, FMC Corporation
 Greg Minor, Boy & Girls Club
 Ray Ochsner, Brown County Implement
 Don Schuler, Sheldahl
 Ward Schumacher, F & M Bank
 Vicky Sieken, Norwest Bank
 Dick Walsh, NWPS
 Earl Weisenburger, Northern State University

1995

LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN

fun facts

- ▼ Los Angeles jury found O. J. Simpson not guilty of murder charges; an estimated 150 million people watched as the verdict was read
- ▼ Pope John Paul II visited US on whirlwind tour
- ▼ Million Man March drew hundreds of thousands of black men to the capital
- ▼ The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum opened in Cleveland
- ▼ Grateful Dead frontman Jerry Garcia died
- ▼ The Metropolitan Opera installed screens on audience seats that displayed captions, to attract a wider audience
- ▼ Renowned architect I. M. Pei designed the ultra-modern, 150,000 square-foot building
- ▼ Movies include: Babe, Braveheart, Leaving Las Vegas, The Usual Suspects, and Dead Man Walking
- ▼ Steve Fossett made a flight of more than 5,430 mi. from Seoul, South Korea, to Leader, Saskatchewan, Canada, in a helium-filled balloon
- ▼ Drs. Ian Wilmut and Keith Campbell (UK) created the world's first cloned sheep, Megan and Morag, from embryo cells

NOTE FROM LLOYD HODGIN (class of 1995)

The leadership class of 1995 was made up of a fun group of people that I continue to count among my friends today. These folks saw fit to ask me to be one of two speakers at our "graduation". I don't recall exactly what I spoke about, but I do remember our current Aberdeen Mayor, Tim Rich, sat right up front. I had some tough words

for those in charge and challenged them to continue to pursue those policies and programs that would help grow and make Aberdeen the great place to live in which we all believed; among them was a new high school. A few days later, Mayor Rich called and asked if I would be interested in being a member of the city's planning commission. I didn't know what it was, but "sure" why not. From that point, I became aware of the growing effort to pass a bond issue for the new high school and lent it my help. After three tries and lots of public speaking to community groups and radio shows, Aberdeen saw fit to build this great community asset. After nearly nine years of planning commission work including the Super Walmart hearings, a sitting City Council member moved and I was asked to fill his seat. I ran for the City Council in the next election and was privileged to represent the South East district of Aberdeen for 5 years as we completely changed our municipal form of government. I now own one business, partner in two others and am planning the launch of a fourth later this year. Today, I can look back at a variety of things that have been pivot spots in life. But, 16 years ago I made a conscious decision to serve my town. Leadership Aberdeen was a great place from which to begin.



1995 Leadership Aberdeen

Twenty-two men and women made up the 1995 Leadership Aberdeen class. The big issue of 1995 discussed by the class was whether Aberdeen needed a new high school or not. Speaking at the graduation ceremony were classmates Lloyd Hodgins and Darwin Kampa.

Class participants were:

Larry Bitz, K.O. Lee Company
 Mary Brink, Dacotah Bank
 Rich Bures, Norwest Bank
 Chad Carlson, NECOG
 Mark Carpenter, Aberdeen Area Chamber
 Vergene Comes, First Bank
 Audie Crouch, Internal Revenue Service
 Debra Dees, St. Luke's Midland
 Wayne Fischer, Northern State University
 Vicki Fredrickson, Aberdeen Public Schools
 R. Lee Ginsbach, SD School for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Cliff Hadley, Aberdeen American News
 Dale Haiar, Sheldahl
 Dennis Hansen, Zion Lutheran Church
 Lloyd Hodgins, Plainsco Inc.
 Darwin Kampa, Conlin's Furniture
 Krysti Mikkonen, Kids Voting of Aberdeen
 Phil Mulvaney, Northern State University
 Jared Olson, NECOG
 Penny Opp, K.O. Lee Company
 Kevin Pleinis, Pleinis Jewelry
 Linda Schweitzer, Holiday & Comfort Inn

1996

facts

▼ In the UK Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales got divorced and Mad Cow Disease hit Britain (BSE) causing a mass slaughter of herds of cows and new laws to stop beef being sold on the bone

▼ Ebay started the online auction and shopping website, where people buy and sell goods and services worldwide

▼ The Summer Olympics were held in Atlanta, United States

fun

▼ A nail bomb exploded in Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta

▼ Popular Musicians include: Spice Girls, Mariah Carey, Eric Clapton, The Wallflowers, Sheryl Crow, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Smashing Pumpkins, Alanis Morissette and Lenny Kravitz

▼ Popular Films include: Independence Day, Twister, Mission: Impossible, Jerry Maguire, 101 Dalmatians, The Rock, The Nutty Professor, The Birdcage, A Time to Kill, The English Patient and Star Trek: First Contact

▼ United States presidential election 1996 Bill Clinton (Democratic) defeated Bob Dole (Republican) and Ross Perot (Reform)

**NOTE FROM
MIKE BIRGEN**
(class of 1996)

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

As a young professional at the time I was fortunate that NSV put me through the class. I learned a great deal more about the community and leaders in Aberdeen. With that said, I was able to foster great working relationships that I cherish today.



1996 Leadership Aberdeen

In 1996, the Leadership Aberdeen program was led by Vickie Brokke and Darwin Kampa. Speaking at the Graduation ceremony were 1995 George Award winner Ben Benson and 1995 Athena Award Recipient Mary Gorder Groth.

Ron Kaaz of 3M described his 1996 experience as "an opportunity to further develop personal growth and to build confidence by working together with classmates and community leaders. It makes you feel like becoming involved in the community." Joe Jacobson of Home Federal Savings summed up his experience by saying "My experience with Leadership Aberdeen was outstanding. Through the various seminars and speakers, I had an opportunity to take a hard look at my personality and leadership skills. It was very beneficial."

Class participants were:

Mike Birgen, Northern State University
 Jerry Cope, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Kathy Gerdes, NECOG
 Joe Jacobson, Home Federal Savings Bank
 Rita Johnsen, Aberdeen American News
 Bruce Johnson, Bethesda Home of Aberdeen
 Ron Kaaz, 3M Company
 Elaine Koslowski, Plainsco
 Carol McKiver, Norwest Bank
 Troy McQuillen, McQuillen Design
 Anita Meyer, Aberdeen American News
 Jeff Mitchell, Aberdeen Career Planning

Todd Muehler, Norwest Bank
 Ross Olson, NECOG
 Stacey Pence, Midwest Lodging
 K.C. Perin, United Defense
 Jim Schmidt, Eide Helmeke & Co.
 Mike Senger, 3M Company
 Al Soulek, First Bank Systems Invest.
 Jon Webb, Webb Shoe Company
 Chuck Webster, 3M Company
 Jerry Whiteside, United Defense
 Donna Young, St. Luke's Midland RMC

1997

fun facts

- ▼ The first signs of the dreaded Bird Flu in China where the first documented case of the jump to humans causing Hong Kong to kill 1.25 million chickens
- ▼ Princess Diana died in a car accident
- ▼ Microsoft became the world's most valuable company valued at \$261 billion dollars
- ▼ Tiger Woods at 21 years old became the youngest ever golfer to win the Masters
- ▼ Mike Tyson bit Evander Holyfield's ear during a match and was suspended from boxing
- ▼ The first book in the award winning Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling was published "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" & released in US as "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"
- ▼ Popular Films include: Titanic, The Lost World: Jurassic Park, Men in Black, Tomorrow Never Dies, Air Force One, As Good as It Gets, Liar Liar and My Best Friend's Wedding
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Smashing Pumpkins, Foo Fighters, Nine Inch Nails, The Verve, Counting Crows, Lenny Kravitz, Spice Girls, Hanson and The Offspring

**NOTE FROM
MARK VAUX**
Class of 1997

There was a Dale Carnegie aspect as part of Leadership Aberdeen when our class went through. It took me outside of my comfort zone and assisted in my professional growth. I still use the knowledge and skills I gained during Leadership Aberdeen, several years later.

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**



1997 Leadership Aberdeen

Twenty-Five men and women participated in the program. Al Soulek, 1996 alumni, was the chairman for the program. Other alumni including Ron Kaaz, Mike Senger, Jerry Whiteside, Joe Jacobson and Bruce Johnson, helped plan and facilitate the program.

Larry Atkinson from the Mobridge Tribune led the class orientation and included the Phillips 66 Problem Solving Technique. Other sessions included Team Dynamic presented by Dr. John Hutchinson of NSU, Image Building presented by Duane Salonen of the Dale Carnegie franchise, and many more excellent sessions.

Class participants were:

Tom Agnitsch, Brown County United Way
 Joanie Bitz, St. Luke's Midland
 Kaye DeYoung, Norwest Bank
 Daryl Ebach, Norwest Bank
 Nate Franzen, Dacotah Bank
 Mike Gohn, Aberdeen Chrysler
 Tina Gross, 3M Company
 Chris Haar, Aberdeen Development Corporation
 Cindy Heckel, St. Luke's Midland
 Janet Hedges, 3M Company
 Mark Luitjens, Heartland Grains
 Greg Magera, Siegel, Barnett & Schutz
 Noel Martens, Student Loan Finance Corp.
 Brenda Moore, Convention & Visitor Bureau

Maureen Nikolas, Aberdeen Career Planning
 Lisa Norby, Vision Care
 Judith Porter, United Defense
 Perry Rettig, Northern State University
 Liz Scherr, Heartland Homes
 Arlyn Schlepp, 3M Company
 Nancy Vander Hoek, St. Luke's Midland
 Mark Vaux, Aberdeen Catholic School
 Lorrie Weber, United Defense
 Renea Wensmann, Plainsco
 Marlene Young, Aberdeen Area Chamber
 of Commerce

1998

fun facts

- ▼ US President Bill Clinton denied he had "sexual relations" with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, but later admitted it
- ▼ The Soviet Union Banking system suffered a meltdown when the Rouble lost 70% of its value against US dollar in 6 months & several of the largest Russian banks collapsed
- ▼ U.N.I.C.E.F. reported there were approximately 250 million child laborers worldwide
- ▼ President Bill Clinton was impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice
- ▼ The two oil companies Exxon and Mobil merged to create the worlds largest petroleum company
- ▼ Windows 98 was released by Microsoft
- ▼ The search engine Google was founded
- ▼ The worlds largest suspension bridge at 1.234 miles opened in Japan
- ▼ 19 European nations agreed to forbid human cloning
- ▼ Data sent from the Galileo probe indicated that Jupiter's moon Europa had a liquid ocean under a thick crust of ice
- ▼ The FDA approved Viagra for use as a treatment for male impotence, & became the first pill to be approved to treat this condition in the United States
- ▼ Apple Computer unveiled the iMac

**NOTE FROM
KIM LIEN**
Class of 1998

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

Leadership Aberdeen helped build both my confidence and a network of community leaders. The program made a positive impact in my life personally and professionally. I was excited to be part of the 1998 Leadership class and work with the Chamber and Robbie Parham to facilitate the 1999 program.



1998 Leadership Aberdeen

Twenty-two men and women, representing 19 different businesses participated in the 1998 program. Renae Wensmann and Stacy Pence were the co-chairs of the Leadership Aberdeen 1998 program. The class was "Challenged to Help Build Our Future" and the program kicked off January 9th. Stacy was quoted as saying "Leadership Aberdeen provided an opportunity for me to learn more about the community, while developing leadership skills which I continue to use in my work and personal life."

Members of the class participated in Aberdeen Day along with Wizard of Oz Characters on February 19th. Graduation was held on March 10, 1998. Speakers at the graduation were Jacki Omland, 1996 SD Teacher of the Year and Athena Award Recipient, Nancy Vostad.

Class participants were:

Blake Anderson, Dacotah Bank
 Ryan Boe, Siegel, Barnett & Shcutz
 Brian Boettcher, 3M Company
 Paul Brewer, Norwest Bank
 Lea Simon, Northern State University
 Brad Fiechtner, Sheldahl
 Lynne Fuhrman, Alpine Industries
 Wendy Henning, NECOG
 Kevin Hollis, Twin City Fan Companies
 Mick Karst, United Defense
 Kim Lien, Jason's Truck & Auto Body, Inc.

Rory Lien, 3M Company
 Marlene Loeb, Gas, N, Goodies
 Waneta Malsom, Aberdeen Chamber
 Dean Marske, HKG Architects, Inc.
 Barb Michlitsch, Cendant
 Robbie Parham, Aberdeen American News
 Tammy Sahli, Orthopedic Surgery Specialists
 Tom Scheid, Norwest Bank
 Cindy Schick, Aman Collection Services
 Doug Smith, 3M Company
 Carla VanDyke, Avera St. Luke's Hospital

1999

fun facts

- ▼ The world prepared for the new millennium (Y2K) parties and computers around the world ran testing for the millennium bug which was thought to cause wide scale disruption to business and infrastructure if not fixed; Critical industries (such as electricity or financial) and government functions were thought to stop working at 12:00 am, January 1, 2000 - This fear was fueled by the press coverage and other media speculation, as well as corporate and government reports and led to worldwide computer upgrades
- ▼ The human population of the world surpassed six billion
- ▼ Lance Armstrong won his first Tour de France
- ▼ My Space was officially introduced to the Internet
- ▼ Bluetooth was announced
- ▼ Popular Films include: Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace, The Sixth Sense, Toy Story 2 , The Matrix, The Mummy, The World Is Not Enough, American Beauty, Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me and American Pie
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Britney Spears, Enrique Iglesias, Madonna, Christina Aguilera, Ricky Martin, Eminem, Limp Bizkit, The Offspring, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Santana, TLC, blink-182, Phil Collins and New Radicals
- ▼ Popular Television includes: Simpsons, Beverly Hills 90210, ER, Friends, Everybody Loves Raymond, Ally McBeal, Dawson's Creek, Sex and the City , Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, and Will & Grace

**NOTE FROM
GAIL OGDahl**
(class of 1999)

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

I started the Leadership Aberdeen program in January of 1999. I had just started working for the Chamber in the fall of 1998 as their marketing director. My family and I had recently moved back to Aberdeen from Brookings and through my position at the Chamber and the leadership program I went full force into learning about the Chamber and the Aberdeen community. I had been through the Dale Carnegie course, but the Leadership Aberdeen program brought a community perspective that made us feel important to the continued success of the community. Kim Lien and Robbie Parham were a dynamic duo and opened my eyes to what volunteers could accomplish if they set their minds to it. It was a great experience and allowed me to meet many wonderful community leaders. Little did I know then, that I would be facilitating the program for the Chamber for the next several years. Each year I am incredibly impressed by the participants, their enthusiasm and belief in our community. They inspire me each and every year to try harder, do better and give more to our community.



1999 Leadership Aberdeen

Twenty-one individuals, representing 20 different businesses participated in the 1999 Leadership Aberdeen program. The program was facilitated by Kim Lien of Jason's Truck and Auto Body, Inc. and Robbie Parham of the Aberdeen American News.

Members of the committee for 1999 included Barb Michlitsch, Lisa Norby, Liz Scherr, Renae Wensman, Mick Karst, Lloyd Hodgins, Brian Boettcher, and many others. For class projects, Larry Atkinson led the group through the Phillips 66 exercise and the group focused on four key areas including: Tourism, Ag, Political, and Jobs.

Speakers at the graduation ceremony were George Award Winners Rod and Glenna Fouberg and Nancy Aman, Athena Award Recipient. The class also elected fellow classmates Char Doerr and Cory Geffre to speak on their behalf.

Class participants were:

Mike Carrels, Harms Oil/Coffee Cup Fuel Stops
 Paul DeVoe, Avera United Clinic
 Char Doerr, Fire Safety First/Aberdeen Optimist
 Jon Erlandson, Midcontinent Cable
 Paul Fauth, Dacotah Bank
 Cory Geffre, Avera St. Luke's
 Jim Haar, United Defense
 Todd Headrick, Norwest Bank
 JoAnn Heier, Vision Care Associates LLP
 Tom Janish, Aberdeen School District 6-1
 Dorothy Kryzanoski, NSU Foundation

James Kuch, Heartland Grain Fuels, LP
 Anna Lacher, Aman Collection Service, Inc.
 Becky Mutziger, Quality Quick Print
 Mike Mutziger, Northern State University
 Gail Ogdahl, Aberdeen Area Chamber
 of Commerce
 Lois Pletten, 3M Company
 Susan Rozell, Aberdeen American News
 Monica Von Wald, Best Western Ramkota Inn
 Paul Winkler, NECOG

2000

fun facts

- ▼ In the biggest merger in the country's history, America Online agreed to buy Time Warner, the nation's largest traditional media company, for \$165 billion
- ▼ Charles Schulz, the cartoonist who created the "Peanuts" comic strip, died in his sleep after a battle with colon cancer
- ▼ Kathie Lee Gifford announced she was calling it quits after the current season of Live! With Regis & Kathie Lee
- ▼ Oprah Winfrey revealed O magazine
- ▼ Movies include: Chocolat, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Erin Brockovich, Gladiator and Traffic
- ▼ NEAR spacecraft became the first to orbit an asteroid
- ▼ "I love you" virus disrupted computers worldwide
- ▼ Human genome was deciphered; was expected to revolutionize the practice of medicine
- ▼ Abortion pill, RU-486, won US approval

**NOTE FROM
KELLIE ECKER**
Class of 2000

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

Leadership Aberdeen was THE best way for me to get connected to the community which has ultimately made me more effective in my role at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. I credit Leadership Aberdeen for introducing me to a wide assortment of Chamber committees and fostering that involvement. I have been proud to be part of the Chamber Diplomat's, Government Affairs, the Healthcare committee, and Partner's In Community Pride.

Leadership Aberdeen not only provided personal and professional growth opportunities, but a social network that has endured since graduating in 2000. Many of our classmates held what we fondly refer to as "Advanced" Leadership where we gathered after class each evening to discuss everything from what happened in class, to life in general, to politics... a tradition which continued on long after the official program was completed.



2000 Leadership Aberdeen

Dottie Krzyanoski, NSU Foundation Director and Cindy Schick, Client Service Manager for Aman Collection Services, Inc. co-chaired the 2000 Leadership Aberdeen program. As Dottie said "The Leadership Aberdeen program develops future community leaders who are knowledgeable about the city and concerned with its well being." The theme for 2000 was "Leaders of the New Millennium".

Session facilitators included: Kim Lien, Cory Geffre, Monica Kuch, Chuck Tuomi, Barb Michlitsch and Susan Rozell, Tom Agnitsch, Lisa Norby, Mick Karst, Brad Fiechtner, Anna Lacher, Mike Mutziger and many others.

The class also did business interviews at both large and small businesses including the Ramkota Inn, Slumberland Furniture, Crawford's, Century 21 Realtors, Gleason Crop Insurance, Cabinets Dakota, and others.

At the graduation ceremony, the keynote speaker was Dr. Lorraine Hale of Presentation College. The class also elected Michael Buse, Kellie Ecker, and Michael Rowan to speak on behalf of the class.

Class participants were:

Roberto Alvarez, Aberdeen American News
 Mike Buse, NorCom
 Scott Cunningham, Cunningham Electric, Inc.
 Charity Dunwoody, US Bank
 Kellie Ecker, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Patricia Feiock, TCF Aerovent
 Todd Gerber, Norwest Bank
 Chris Graves, NECOG
 Megan Hanson, NECOG
 Dr. Gary Harms, Aberdeen School District 6, 1
 Christi Johnson, Midcom, Inc.
 Doug Karst, Campbell's Town & Country Building Supply
 Jason Kuntz, South Dakota Wheat Growers

Connie Kusler, Dacotah Bank
 Vicky Landes, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Mark Malchow, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Greg Murley, Northern State University
 James O'Keefe, Aman Collection Service, Inc.
 Michael Rowan, United Defense
 Carolyn Schaunaman, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Nathan Sparks, Dacotah Bank
 Brad Tennant, Self
 Cletus Thomas, Best Carpet Cleaning/Optimist Club
 Becki Woehl, Aman Collection Service, Inc.

2001

FUN FACTS

- ▼ Al-Qaeda terrorists attacked the United States using hijacked passenger aircrafts to bring down the Twin Towers in New York and crashed an aircraft into the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia leaving nearly 3,000 people dead; The attacks became known simply as 911 due to the date of the attack, September 11th. After the attacks a number of things happened, America declared war on terrorism and invaded Afghanistan where the leader of al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, was believed to be hiding & security increased for all aspects of American life including airline security.
- ▼ A series of Anthrax attacks spread fear amongst the American public and several people were infected by handling infected letters
- ▼ 50 countries signed the Convention on Cybercrime hoping to cut the amount of crime committed through the Internet
- ▼ The code red (WORM) virus attacked 1/4 million websites running on Microsoft's web server
- ▼ Remains of what may be the oldest ancient human were found in Ethiopia estimated to be 5.5 million years old
- ▼ Microsoft released Windows XP
- ▼ Popular Films include: Shrek, Pearl Harbor, A Beautiful Mind, and Moulin Rouge
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Janet Jackson, Destiny's Child, Dido, Jennifer Lopez and REM

**NOTE FROM
LAURE SWANSON**
(class of 2001)

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

Leadership Aberdeen gave me the knowledge, enthusiasm and confidence to help move our city forward and to take a more active role in our local government. The mentors and leaders that I was introduced to as well as the new faces in the class gave me a broader perspective of views and different ways of accomplishing goals.



2001 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

For 2001, Christi Johnson of Midcom, Inc. and Scott Cunningham of Cunningham Electric co-chaired the program. Twenty-eight individuals participated. In regards to why she decided to co-chair the program, Christi said "Sitting at the graduation ceremony watching my fellow 2000 classmates accept their certificates, I realized that in fact these people were not my classmates, but my friends and future business partners."

Individuals participating in training and sessions included: Dr. Thom Flamboe, Mayor Tom Hooper, Larry Atkinson, Aberdeen School Board, State legislators, County Commissioners, Nathan Sparks, Mark Vaux, Gary Harms, Becky Woehl, Neil Smith, Maureen Nikolas, Anna Lacher, and many others.

Class participants were:

Donna Anderson, Avera St. Luke's
 Naomi Bensen, Dacotah Bank
 Peggy Blair, Aberdeen School District 6-1
 Kevin Burckhard, Wells Fargo Bank SD, N.A.
 Miles Carver, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Ted Dickey, NECOG
 Tawnya Doerr, Bethesda Home of Aberdeen
 Julia Dvorak, Siegel, Barnett & Schutz
 Rich Galbraith, NECOG
 Randy Giedt, Cendant
 Corey Helms, Helms & Associates
 Ethel Houge, Northern State University
 Kim Hohnholt, United Defense
 Barb Imberi, United Defense

Heidi Kramer, Tom & Danielle Aman Foundation
 Jay Kusler, Aberdeen American News
 Julie Kusler, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Terry Lacher, RDO Equipment Co.
 Candace Nelson, Vision Care Associates LLP
 Joran Olson, Prairie Crossings
 Jeff Scheel, Wells Fargo Bank
 Ryan Schimke, Midcontinent Communications
 Deb Simdorn, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Steve Stickelmyer, Northwestern Communications Solutions
 Laure Swanson, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Nina Vilhauer, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 William Webb, United Defense
 Beverly Werner, Northern State University

2002

fun facts

- ▼ George Bush created the Department of Homeland Security to fight threats of terrorism
- ▼ The Winter Olympic games were held in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States
- ▼ The Mars Odyssey found signs of huge water ice deposits on the planet Mars
- ▼ A huge 660 pound meteorite plunged into earth's atmosphere and exploded in a fireball over southern Bavaria
- ▼ Kelly Clarkson won the first American Idol contest
- ▼ Popular Films include: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Spider-Man, Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones, Die Another Day, Ice Age, My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Minority Report and Chicago
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Michelle Branch, Vanessa Carlton, Good Charlotte, Counting Crows, Puddle of Mudd, Avril Lavigne, Pink, Supergrass, Alanis Morissette, No Doubt, Oasis, Céline Dion, Shania Twain, Coldplay, Linkin Park, Justin Timberlake and Creed

**NOTE FROM
JENNIFER KLITZKE**
Class of 2002

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**

Leadership Aberdeen was a great experience. Growing up near Aberdeen, I knew Aberdeen as a place to go to get out of town for a night. Being new to living in Aberdeen, Leadership Aberdeen helped me learn about the whole community – the history, the businesses, and the people. Our group looked at the issues facing the community, at that time, and discussed possible solutions. It was a group of people coming together to learn and to possibly make a difference. Since then, I have seen over and over again what a group of people coming together can do to make a difference in this community. And fortunately, we have many that do this every day – United Way volunteers, Chamber members, PTA groups, service club members; the list goes on and on. Leadership Aberdeen was a way for me to start becoming more involved in the community. And for those that made it possible for me to attend, I am grateful.



2002 Leadership Aberdeen

Twenty-three men and women participated in the 2002 Leadership Aberdeen program. The program was facilitated by Christi Johnson, Comfort Inn and Ethel Houge of the NSU Foundation.

Bruce Hakala, class participant from the Aberdeen American News said "Leadership Aberdeen has provided me a deeper insight into the amount of personal time that needs to be donated for a community to be successful." Georgia Smith said "I felt that I knew about the community because I grew up here. However, through Leadership I was able to meet more people outside my circle, learn about a variety of issues and diversify my participation in the community."

The class attended Aberdeen Day at the State Capitol. The graduation was held at the Ramada Inn on March 5, 2002. At graduation, NSU Coach Don Meyer was the keynote speaker. The class also elected Jessica Schroeder and Todd Forkel to speak on behalf of the class.

Class participants were:

Jeff DesCamps, Johnson Motor Co.
 Todd Forkel, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Estelle Grote, Aman Collection Service, Inc.
 Bruce Hakala, Aberdeen American News
 Troy Holtey, Aman Collection Service, Inc.
 Anastasia King, Aberdeen Board of Realtors
 Jennifer Klitzke, United Way
 Nancy Krumm, Aberdeen Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Susan Landon, Arnold, Northern State University
 Max Morse, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Greg Nielson, United Defense
 Kevin Olsen, JC Penney, Co. Inc.

Michelle Podoll, RE Huffman Co.
 Robb Prissel, Harr Motors, Inc.
 Jim Ragatz, Aberdeen TV and Appliance
 Roger Reich, NorthWestern Communications
 Jessica Schroeder, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Jennifer Slaughter-Hansen, Dacotah Bank
 Georgia Smith, Downtown Business Improvement District
 Gordon Vanauken, Brown County 911
 Bill Waddell, United Defense
 Maria Zinter, JC Penney, Co. Inc.
 Mike Zolnowsky, Wells Fargo Bank, NA

2003

fun facts

- ▼ The new United States Department of Homeland Security officially began operation
- ▼ Saddam Hussein, former President of Iraq, was captured in Tikrit by the U.S. 4th Infantry
- ▼ Armed undercover "sky marshals" were used on Aircrafts to prevent terrorist attacks following 9/11
- ▼ The Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas upon reentry, killing all seven astronauts on board
- ▼ The highly infectious disease SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) spread from China, Singapore and Vietnam - Worldwide nearly 9,000 people were affected in 15 countries and over 800 died from the effects
- ▼ The biggest blackout in the history of north America - some 50 million people in the northeastern states and southern Canada lost power
- ▼ Concorde made its last commercial flight, bringing the era of airliner supersonic travel to a close
- ▼ Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected Governor of California
- ▼ Concerns continued to grow over the possible Asian bird flu outbreak also known as avian influenza
- ▼ Keiko the Orca made famous by the "Free Willy" movies, died
- ▼ A white tiger attacked Roy Horn of the duo "Siegfried & Roy" leaving him partially paralyzed

**NOTE FROM
KENNY AWE**
(class of 2003)

I was part of the Leadership Class of 2003 and am employed at Dakota Supply Group. I can say that Leadership was, and still is, a very positive experience. Seeing how city and state governments function, the many community organizations that contribute so richly to the area, working together for a common goal, learning a little more about myself, and most of all, the friendships that were made, were probably the highlight of Leadership for me. I would recommend it to everyone.

**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN**



2003 Leadership Aberdeen

2002 class participant, Michelle Podoll chaired the 2003 program and the theme for the program was "Building An Environment of Success".

Class participants were:

Brenda Arteman, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 Kenny Awe, Dakota Supply Group
 Kati Bachmayer, U.S. Senator Tim Johnson's Office
 Sylvia Baltzell, United Defense
 Brady Byram, Quality Quick Print
 Daniel Cybulski, Home Federal Bank
 Penny Droog, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Monica Eske, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Matt Feickert, Quality Quick Print
 Sara Goldade, WEB Water
 Karen Gunn, Bethesda Home of Aberdeen
 Monica Hale, Safe Harbor
 Jason Harms, 3M Company
 Marion Hartung, Aberdeen School District 6-1

Jerry Helm, United Defense
 Mallisa Heyd, Aman Collection Services, Inc.
 Karen Hoar, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Molly Johnson, Aman Collection Services, Inc.
 Tracy Olson, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Doris Price, Optimist Club/Karlen & Associates
 Ryan Punt, Northern Valley Communications
 Lori Salfrank, Aberdeen American News
 Jeff Senst, SD Department of Transportation
 Rhonda Sigaty, Dacotah Bank
 Nicole Walter, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Chad Weber, Eide Bailly, LLP
 Melissa White, Eide Bailly, LLP

2004

fun facts

- ▼ Population was 294 million with George Bush as President & Richard Cheney as Vice President
- ▼ Media released graphic photos of American soldiers abusing and sexually humiliating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison - images sparked outrage around the world
- ▼ Gay marriages began in Massachusetts, the first state in the country to legalize such unions
- ▼ Sept. 11 commission harshly criticized government's handling of terrorist attacks
- ▼ Florida was hit by hurricanes Bonnie (Aug. 12) and Charley (Aug. 13); Hurricane Ivan ravaged US south (Sept. 15) and Hurricane Jeanne hit Florida (Sept. 26)
- ▼ George W. Bush was reelected president, defeating John Kerry (Nov. 2)
- ▼ Martha Stewart, diva of domesticity, was sentenced to five months in prison in July after being found guilty on four counts of obstruction of justice and lying to federal investigators
- ▼ Sergey Brin and Larry Page, founders of Google, the phenomenally popular search engine, became instant billionaires when the company went public in August
- ▼ Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake created an enormous scandal when Timberlake ripped the bodice of Jackson's costume during the halftime show of February's Super Bowl XXXVIII, exposing her right breast, which was pierced and adorned with a brooch

**NOTE FROM
MATT PREHN**
Class of 2004



Being a part of the Leadership Aberdeen Class of 2004 was a great experience for me. The Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce did a wonderful job putting together informative sessions at locations throughout the community with several different speakers. Our "Boot Camp" provided me with some good information on leadership that I've been able to use from time to time in my career. We also had the opportunity to travel to Pierre for Aberdeen Day at the State Capital, had a meeting with the Governor, and lunch with Sen. Johnson. Our class project was to plan for a basketball game to highlight the Aberdeen Special Olympics athletes. This event was a tremendous success and continues on today. This March will mark the 8th Annual "Shoot for the Stars" game. However, the best part of the program was having a chance to meet some great people and make new friendships.



2004 leadership aberdeen

Leadership Aberdeen Boot Camp kicked off on January 8, 2004. Co-Chairs for the program were Tracy Olson, Avera St. Luke's and Randy Giedt, Wooden Mallet. The "Bootcamp" theme carried throughout the program with sessions titled "Hit the Deck" and "Gung Ho". The class also "deployed" to Pierre, SD for Aberdeen Day!

For the class project, 2003 alumni Molly Johnson and Jason Harms inspired the class to host a Special Olympics Basketball game between special Olympic kids and Aberdeen business leaders. It gave the kids a chance to practice before their state tournament. The event was titled "Shoot for the Stars." It raised money for the kids to offset tournament expenses, but mostly raised awareness about Special Olympics in the community. It was truly inspiration and the event still continues to this day with Leadership Aberdeen alumni facilitating the event annually.

At the graduation ceremonies, the First Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award was presented to JoEllen Linder of Presentation College.

Class participants were:

Kevin Bain, NECOG
 Rebecca Cantwell, Safe Harbor
 Dale Carr, BAE Systems
 Bobbie Dempsey, Aberdeen American News
 Bryan German, Expetec Corporation
 Anne Hartman, BAE Systems
 Jeffrey Heyd, ServiceMaster of Aberdeen
 Trent Johnson, Jobbers Moving & Storage Co.
 Mike Jung, Jung Construction Inc.
 Jarrod Kannas, Wells Fargo Auto Finance
 Justin Keough, 3M Company
 Annette Leberman, Avera St. Luke's Hospital

Tom Lee, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 JoEllen Lindner, Presentation College
 Lynda Mardian, Sanford Clinic, Aberdeen
 Scott Meints, BAE Systems
 Matt Prehn, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 Carrie Rath, Steven Lust Automotive
 Kris Reuer, SD Career Center
 Durran Schmidt, Dacotah Bank
 Tom Snyder, Mother Joseph Manor
 Steve Stillman, CorTrust Bank
 Jean Thares, Wells Fargo Auto Finance
 Lisa Wagner, Northern State University

2005

fun facts

- ▼ George W. Bush was officially sworn in for his second term as president
- ▼ Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced her retirement
- ▼ Hurricane Katrina wreaked catastrophic damage on the Gulf coast; more than 1,000 died and millions were left homeless - Americans were shaken not simply by the magnitude of the disaster but by how ill-prepared all levels of government were in its aftermath
- ▼ Another major hurricane, Rita, ravaged the Gulf coast
- ▼ A string of hit primetime shows gave ABC bragging rights as the network with a "must-see" lineup - Lost, Desperate Housewives, and Grey's Anatomy found a large and loyal following
- ▼ Peter Jennings, anchor of ABC's World News Tonight, died in August
- ▼ Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, who both starred in Mr. and Mrs. Smith, were inseparable and finally confirmed their relationship at about the same time Jolie's pregnancy became obvious
- ▼ Popular movies include: Brokeback Mountain, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Crash, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Madagascar and Walk the Line
- ▼ Astronomers at the California Institute of Technology found a rocky, icy planet they believe is larger than Pluto and may in fact be another planet

**NOTE FROM
LAURA MOUNT**
(class of 2005)



2005
LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN
"Essential Piece of the Puzzle"

Leadership Aberdeen is a wonderful way to get to network within your community and discover your community. Aberdeen is very diverse and full of wonderful programs, events, and career opportunities. Leadership Aberdeen brings many people, from many different backgrounds together to learn leadership skills, and create and run a program to better our community one year at a time. Since Aberdeen is known as the Hub City our Leadership Aberdeen Class hosted a Taste of the World event where dishes from around the world along with Cultural Dances from Polynesia were featured. Aberdeen is home to many wonderful people with many wonderful talents to share and Leadership Aberdeen brings us together to build our community into a stronger more united place for all to live, learn and work.



2005 Leadership Aberdeen

An Essential Piece of the Puzzle was the theme of the 2005 Leadership Aberdeen program. Bryan German of Expetec and JoEllen Lindner of Presentation College were the program co-chairs.

Deb Walker of NSU developed their leadership and social styles, Paul McDonald of Dacotah Bank helped them identify a community project, and the class also attended Aberdeen Day on February 17, 2005.

The class project was a "Taste of the World" event held at the Ramada. The event was held to raise awareness and acceptance of different cultures in the community. The event raised \$1550 and funds were donated to the Dacotah Prairie Museum.

At the graduation ceremonies, Angela Steinbach was selected by the class to speak on their behalf and Chris Larson of Northern Electric Cooperative was presented with the Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award.

Class participants were:

Neil Bittner, City of Aberdeen, Police Dept.
 Michael Bockorny, Northern State University Foundation
 Nancy Clark, North, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Skip Clay, Neurospine of Aberdeen, LLC
 Jennifer Dewald, Wells Fargo Bank
 Lonnie Frost, Midcontinent Communications
 Arin Knutson, NECOG
 Terri Koch, Wells Fargo Financial
 Chris Larson, Northern Electric Cooperative
 Karen Makela, Wells Fargo Financial
 Laura Millett, Insurance Plus

Nicki Moch, Abracadabra Custom Painting & Signs
 Laura Mount, Aberdeen Jaycees
 Sandra Osterman, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Mark Rich, Culver's of Aberdeen
 Gregory Scott, ServiceMaster of Aberdeen
 Diane Soderlund, Wells Fargo Bank, Kessler's
 Angela Steinbach, Aberdeen American News
 Amy Thue, Coventry Health Care
 Leigh Trosen, Dakota Supply Group
 Glenna Westra, Avera St. Luke's Hospital

2006

fun facts

- ▼ Saddam Hussein was convicted of crimes against humanity by an Iraqi court (Nov. 5), and hanged in Baghdad
- ▼ House released a report on the response to Hurricane Katrina, assigning blame on all levels of government
- ▼ The US Energy department released a report that there were about a trillion barrels worth of oil in the form of oil shale reserved in the Green River basin, Italy
- ▼ The one billionth song was purchased from Apple iTunes
- ▼ Nintendo released the Wii in North America with an MSRP of \$249.99
- ▼ Google purchased YouTube for \$1.65 billion in stock
- ▼ Popular Films include: The Pink Panther, Underworld: Evolution, Nanny McPhee, Failure to Launch, Eight Below, V for Vendetta, Ice Age: The Meltdown, Date Movie, Miami Vice and Over The Hedge
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Beyonce, Ne-Yo, INXS, The Pussycat Dolls, Nine Inch Nails, Coldplay, System of a Down, Gwen Stefani and Madonna
- ▼ Popular Television includes: 24, Fear Factor, Law & Order: Criminal Intent, Pop Idol, The Amazing Race, The Bernie Mac Show, American Idol, The Bachelor, The George Lopez Show, Without a Trace, Arrested Development, Cold Case, NCIS and Queer Eye for the Straight Guy

**NOTE FROM
GUY TRENHAILE**
Class of 2006



2006
Leadership Aberdeen
What's the catch?

The opportunities that Leadership Aberdeen opened to me have been numerous. There were great people in my class, as in every class, and several that of us still communicate frequently. It has made me more aware of several community service organizations and I realize that there are a number of great organizations within this town. After being exposed to these organizations, I see several Leadership alumni jumping in to serve on boards that they may not have been aware of previously. The networking with my class and other alumni is a continuing experience. Having opportunities to meet with our Legislative representatives has helped me realize they are approachable and do want to hear from us, their constituents. I would encourage anyone interested in learning more about leadership, the City of Aberdeen, of the Legislative process to consider participating in the program.



2006 Leadership Aberdeen

The Leadership Aberdeen program for 2006 was themed – “What’s the Catch?” The class thought “out of the bowl” throughout the 12 sessions. Deb Walker of NSU led the orientation and introduced the class to their personality styles. Other presenters during the session were Mayor Mike Levsen, Joellen Lindner, Presentation College, Bill McQuillen, Aberdeen City Council, and 2005 George Award Winner Clark Wold.

For the class project, the group hosted The Community Cares Music Fest at the Presentation College Strode Center. The event was held on March 13, 2006 and featured nine local musical acts ranging from grade school groups to adults. Over 200 people attended and close to \$2000 was raised and then presented to support our local military troops and their families!

At the graduation ceremonies, the class selected Christina Hanson of Dakota Supply Group and Alvin Haugen from Avera St. Luke’s to speak. In addition, Guy Trenhaile of HealthCare Plus Federal Credit Union was presented the Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award.

Class participants were:

Angie Bakeburg, Wells Fargo Bank, Kesslers
 Matt Clinton, Lust Chevrolet
 Angela Dornbush, Dornbush Agency, Inc.
 Peri Erdmann, Safe Harbor
 Christina Hanson, Dakota Supply Group
 Alvin Haugen, Avera St. Luke’s Hospital
 Pat Helm, SD DOL Aberdeen
 Shane Jung, Jung Construction Inc.
 Kim Kamrowski, Bot, Lee Wayne Co.
 Pam Lindner, Avera St. Luke’s Hospital
 Kari Lozenski, AmericInn Lodge, Suites & Event Center
 Peggy Lunzman, Dacotah Bank

David Novstrup, Wylie Thunder Road
 Annette Ochs, Mutual of Omaha
 Jon Ohleen, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 Paul Peterson, 3M Company
 Tonya Peterson, U.S. Senator Tim Johnson’s Office
 Jody Sandvig, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Travis Sieber, Northern State University
 Tami Svatos, United Blood Services
 Guy Trenhaile, Healthcare Plus Federal Credit Union
 Ann Vidoloff, Northern State University
 Casey Weismantel, Aberdeen Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Chris Woolverton, Quality Quick Print

2007

Fun facts

- ▼ One of the largest and deadliest fires in US history raged Southern California & was fanned by the Santa Ana winds destroying 400,000 acres and 2,000 homes
- ▼ The Bridge over the the Mississippi river on I35W collapsed with cars dropping the 50 ft into the river – due to quick response by emergency services only 13 people lost their lives in the tragedy
- ▼ Apple introduced the iPhone & new iPod with built in WiFi and touch screen
- ▼ The final Harry Potter book was published, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
- ▼ Popular Films include: Transformers, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, The Bourne Ultimatum, 300, Ratatouille, The Simpsons Movie, I Am Legend, Live Free or Die Hard, Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer, American Gangster, Evan Almighty, National Treasure: Book of Secrets, Resident Evil: Extinction, Epic Movie, Nancy Drew and The Hills Have Eyes 2
- ▼ Popular Musicians include: Beyoncé, Fergie, Nelly Furtado, Gwen Stefani, Justin Timberlake, Plain White T's, Pink, Sean Kingston, Ludacris, Carrie Underwood, Rihanna, Britney Spears, Kelly Clarkson and Linkin Park
- ▼ Popular Television includes: Grey's Anatomy, Without a Trace, Amazing Race, Two and a Half Men, Cold Case, Deal or No Deal and NCIS

**NOTES FROM
MELISSA WORREL
& KIM SCHNEIDER**
Class of 2007

Leadership was such a rewarding experience and I'd recommend it to anyone who is a part of our community. The friendships created during my time in Leadership are still friendships I have today and I will always cherish them. In addition, I enjoyed what I learned from the different speakers. I was able to bring great ideas back to my company immediately. Leadership was truly a great experience.

~ Melissa Worrel

Leadership Aberdeen was a very good experience for me. I have lived near Aberdeen all my life and yet I learned so much about Aberdeen. It made me more involved in the political realm. I realized that a group of individuals could accomplish a great deal in a very short period of time. We had some very strong personalities in our class and we used this to our advantage to get the job done. We were able to use the knowledge we gained from many successful individuals who gave us different perspectives on goal setting. I have been in my career for a significant amount of time and didn't really have any agenda in mind about becoming a leader nor did I have a fear of it. However, Leadership Aberdeen taught me that everyone is a leader at some point in our daily lives.

~ Kim Schneider

The Amazing
Leadership Race



2007 Leadership Aberdeen

The Amazing Leadership Race was the 2007 theme and facilitators for the program were Randy Giedt of Wooden Mallet and Jo-Ellen Lindner of Presentation College. The Aberdeen community recently completed a study by Catalytix. Catalytix help regions plan, implement and benefit from strategic initiatives based on the Creative Class Theory of Economic Development. The study indicated that as a community we needed to target our young people and showcase what our community has available to them. The class latched onto this community need and SOAR was born.

SOAR stands for: Student Opportunities, Activities and Resources in Aberdeen. On March 13th, the class set up in the gyms of both Aberdeen middle schools to promote activities, opportunities and resources available to Aberdeen youth. Close to 35 organizations such as Boy Scouts, Aberdeen Family YMCA, BMX, Hockey, etc. participated and promoted what opportunities they had available.

At the graduation ceremonies George Award Winner Hank Lussem and Athena Award Recipient Stacy Levsen were keynote speakers. Nicole Crawford, Healthcare Plus Federal Credit Union was voted Most Improved and spoke on behalf of the class. LJ Warren was presented with the Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award.

Class participants were:

Matt Berheim, Wyndham Worldwide
 Shauna Brockmann, Dacotah Bank
 Britt Chohon, Presentation College
 Nicole Crawford, Healthcare Plus Federal Credit Union
 Tricia Dornbush, Dornbush Agency, Inc.
 Jeff Evenson, Northern Valley Communications
 Ken Fouts, Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen
 Heidi Houghtaling, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Rick Humphries, BAE Systems
 Kelly Krausz, Pierson Ford

Dawn Lilly, Wyndham Worldwide
 Joe Long, BAE Systems
 Alex MacKenzie, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 Amy Reed, Lust Chevrolet
 Lisa Reich, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Kim Schneider, Insurance Plus
 Julie Usselman, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 LJ Warren, Mutual of Omaha
 Trevor Wenbourne, Wells Fargo Auto Finance
 Melissa Worrel, Plains Commerce Bank

2008

fun facts

- ▼ Barak Obama was elected as President and assembled centrist administration- democrats gained seats in Congress
- ▼ Conditions deteriorated in Afghanistan
- ▼ India was rocked by a wave of terrorist attacks
- ▼ Gulf of Aden was vulnerable to piracy
- ▼ American swimmer Michael Phelps emerged as the star of the Summer Olympics in Beijing
- ▼ Top TV shows include: American Idol, Dancing with the Stars, The Mentalist, NBC Sunday Night Football, CSI, NCIS, 60 Minutes and Survivor
- ▼ Top 10 most played songs include: Bleeding Love by Leona Lewis, Low by Flo Rida featuring T-Pain, Love Song by Sara Bareilles, Apologize by Timbaland featuring OneRepublic, With You by Chris Brown, No Air by Jordin Sparks - duet with Chris Brown, Love in this Club by Usher featuring Young Jeezy, No One by Alicia Keys, Lollipop by Lil Wayne featuring Static Major and Sexy Can I by Ray J & Yung Berg

**NOTE FROM
SHANE FRANKS**
Class of 2008

Before Leadership Aberdeen 2008, I looked at Aberdeen and I saw a strong community - Strong with character, strong with values, strong with families. Strong but DORMANT. After the twelve week course I saw a budding and dynamic community. We heard from the politicians. We heard from businesses. We heard from community leaders and there was a sense of a pending eruption. I don't know if this was common in every class, before or since, but for the most part I think this was a shared feeling among the 2008 graduates. Aberdeen was on the verge of doing great things and I felt privileged not to just be aware of it but to be a part of it through Leadership Aberdeen. By the end of the course, my views had shifted so much that it doesn't make a difference if the eruption never comes. Just seeing how much effort is put forth everyday by people who are trying to ensure that it does, I don't think I can ever think of Aberdeen as dormant again.



2008 Leadership Aberdeen

Leadership Aberdeen REALITY 2008 kicked off in January. The Reality theme set the tone for the sessions facilitated by Leadership Aberdeen Business partners including: Avera St. Luke's Dacotah Bank, 3M Company, Education Assistance Corporation, Northern State University and Presentation College.

For their class project, the class developed "Link to Life" which was held in conjunction with the Aberdeen Area Job Fair. The class served as community ambassadors, visiting with job seekers on resources and opportunities that are available in Aberdeen. Life is good in Aberdeen, and the class showed it with several booths, demonstrations and activities.

At the graduation ceremonies, Shane Franks of Schwan Financial and Amy Blackstone of the Chamber spoke on behalf of the class. Wendy Mette of Volunteers of Americas was presented the Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award.

Class participants were:

Jeff Ansel, 3M Company
 Amy Blackstone, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Joshua Bowen, Waddell & Reed
 Bill Cameron, 3M Company
 Ryan Cunningham, BAE Systems
 Carlie Davis, Ramada Inn
 Shane Franks, Schwan Financial Group, LLC
 Chris Hauck, Northern State University
 Warren Heitz, RDO Equipment Co.
 Kathryn Henning, Ward Plaza
 Scott Heyd, BAE Systems
 Jennifer Hieb, Presentation College
 April Husby, Healthcare Plus Federal Credit Union
 Angie Johnson, Coventry Health Care

Tony Kallas, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Wendy Mette, Volunteers of America
 Torian Mitchell, Home Federal Bank
 Mike Nguyen, BAE Systems
 Roberta Nichols, Wyndham Worldwide
 Darrin Olson, RDO Equipment Co.
 Spencer Opp, Banner Engineering
 Tonya Senger, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Tanya Shafer, Wyndham Worldwide
 Jennifer Sietsema, NECOG
 Renee Wagner, Education Assistance Corporation
 Jen Wegleitner, Northern State University
 Tyler Wenbourne, Dacotah Bank
 Paul Wiess, Steven Lust Automotive

2009

fun facts

- ▼ After allegedly striking a flock of geese, US Airways Flight 1549, en route from La Guardia Airport, New York City, to Charlotte, N.C., was forced to land in the Hudson River. All 150 passengers and 5 crew members survived. The pilot, Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III, was hailed as the "Hero of the Hudson" for his quick thinking and deft landing of the plane
- ▼ Hundreds of thousands of people watched in front of the Capitol as President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were sworn into office. Obama made history as the first African-American president
- ▼ President Obama declared the outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus, also called swine flu, a national emergency
- ▼ Popular Movies include: Avatar, Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, New Moon, Up, The Hangover, Star Trek, The Blind Side, Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel and Sherlock Holmes
- ▼ Popular Music includes: Fearless, Taylor Swift; I Am...Sasha Fierce, Beyonce; Dark Horse, Nickelback; Twilight (soundtrack); Hannah Montana: The Movie (soundtrack); Circus, Britney Spears; 808s & Heartbreak, Kanye West; The Fame, Lady Gaga; Relapse, Eminem; The E.N.D. and The Black Eyed Peas

**NOTE FROM
KYLIE WALDO**
(class of 2009)

Leadership Aberdeen was an amazing way for us not only to grow professionally but to meet some really great people outside of work. The eye-opening experiences of all of the tours and "inside tidbits" the class received about the area's business were insightful to what we have available right here in Aberdeen. Wow! our trip to Pierre will go down in history and will always be remembered. Go Class of 2009!



ABERDEEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
**LEADERSHIP
ABERDEEN '09**



2009 Leadership Aberdeen

"We Want You!" - A patriotic theme was set for the 2009 Leadership Aberdeen class. Thom Flamboe, Vice President of Academics for Presentation College, introduced personality and leadership styles, Paul McDonald, Dacotah Bank lead the class through determining their class project. The project was "Pay it Forward" and focused on securing volunteers for community service clubs and organizations. The class organized a service club fair in conjunction with the Great Outdoors Show. The goal was to give back and get more people volunteering in the community.

2009 Leadership Aberdeen Business Partners were: 3M Company of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Development Corporation, Absolutely! Aberdeen, Avera St. Luke's, BAE Systems, Dacotah Bank, Education Assistance Services Company, Inc., Midstates Printing/Quality Quick Print, Northern State University, Northern Electric, NorthWestern Energy, Presentation College, and Web Water.

At the graduation ceremonies, Randy Battey led the invocation and the keynote speakers were Cindi Walsh, 2009 Woman of Spirit and 2009 George Award Recipient Tom Agnitsch. Speaking on behalf of the class at graduation was Derek Ricci of Dakota Broadcasting. Derek was also the recipient of the Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award.

Class participants were:

Colin Artz, RDO Equipment Co.
 Travis Bindenagel, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation
 Angie Comstock, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Shelly Crouch, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Robyn Ewalt, Avera Aberdeen Family Physicians
 David Frank, Eide Bailly, LLP
 Steven Gascoigne, BAE Systems
 Brian Goebel, BAE Systems
 Kristie Harger, WEB Water
 Renee Jarvis, JDH Construction
 Rebecca Jirava, 3M Company
 Rebecca Kappenman, Northern Electric Cooperative

Marsha Luzier, Aberdeen Asthma & Allergy, PC
 Frank Mangan, Home Federal Bank
 William McComsey, RDO Equipment Co.
 Derek Ricci, Dakota Broadcasting, LLC
 Jennifer Sanchez, Ramada Convention Center of Aberdeen
 Chris Scott, Mohr's Fencing
 David Smith, 3M Company
 Nathan Speck, Ramada Convention Center of Aberdeen
 Matthew Walberg, Wylie Thunder Road
 Kylie Waldo, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Kacy Walker, Presentation College
 Shirelle Stadel, Safe Harbor

2010

fun facts

- ▼ A deadly oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 men and caused extensive damage to marine and wild life
- ▼ Julian Assange was under scrutiny not for his secrets, but for those he has shared – His WikiLeaks frenzy caps a year of slip-ups, leaks, and missteps
- ▼ Obsessions include: iPhone, Lindsay Lohan, iPad, "Glee", "Jersey Shore", Facebook, Bedbugs, Tea Party, Silly Bandz and Stieg Larsson's "The Girl"
- ▼ Top 10 internet searches include: BP Oil Spill, World Cup, Miley Cyrus, Kim Kardashian, Lady Gaga, iPhone, Megan Fox, Justin Bieber, American Idol and Britney Spears
- ▼ Two sets of miners on opposite sides of the globe survived accidents deep underground, against all odds
- ▼ Thick blankets of snow brought the United States government to a standstill for a week
- ▼ Earthquake devastated Haiti, Pakistan flooded, Iceland volcano, Guatemala Sinkhole, Nashville Flood, China Earthquake, East Coast Blizzard, Machu Picchu Landslide
- ▼ Financial uprisings included unemployment, Wall Street companies, recalls, foreclosures, Health Care Bill, Tea Party movement, new credit card laws, Dow Jones flash crash
- ▼ We began to rebuild after the economic downfall

**NOTE FROM
RENAE HOVEN**
Class of 2010

My experience with Leadership Aberdeen was very enlightening. While the course is designed to further recognize and develop leadership qualities it is so much more. The program reinforced my thoughts about leadership and allowed exploration of different ways people lead in everyday situations. The benefits of networking and the educational factors the presenters shared were very positive. The 2010 class event of planning a family carnival with the "All About Aberdeen" theme was an excellent challenge and example of leadership at its best. The event was a great opportunity for many organizations in the community and taught the Leadership Class participants a lot about each other and working together. In my opinion I took a lot away from the Leadership Aberdeen program on a professional and educational level but the best part was the friendships that developed and that continue today.



**LEAVE
YOUR
MARK**

Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN 2010



2010 Leadership Aberdeen

"Leave your Mark in 2010" was the theme – and that's just what the 2010 class did. For their class project, the group held an event titled "All About Aberdeen: Discover the People, Discover the Fun!" The event was held on March 28th at the Roncalli Elementary Gymnasium. It was free to the public and was a carnival-type atmosphere which included games, snacks and prizes. The event was designed to bring the community together with friends to have fun and find out what Aberdeen has to offer for families.

At the graduation ceremonies Marne Neiger of Bobcat Company and Clay Nelson of Avera St. Luke's spoke on behalf of the class. The Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award was presented to Marne Neiger of Bobcat Company.

Class participants were:

Randy Battey, Calvary Baptist Church
 Richelle Braun, Northern State University
 Robert Dillon, Ramada Convention Center of Aberdeen
 Joseph Dudley, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Tara Geffre, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
 Brenda Glasford, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 David Green, BAE Systems
 Renae Hoven, GCC Ready Mix
 Peter Jewett, 3M Company
 Amy Jones, Aberdeen American News
 Jay Kessler, Midcontinent Communications
 Corey Kramer, NorthWestern Energy
 Cody Larson, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Eric Larson, Banner Engineering

Steve Lewno, Quality Quick Print/Midstates, Inc.
 Chris Mardian, Dacotah Bank
 Marne Neiger, Bobcat Company
 Clay Nelson, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Dominic Schmidt, Aberdeen Downtown Association
 Michael Schmit, Helms & Associates
 Monte Sippel, BAE Systems
 Gina Karst, Safe Harbor
 Travis Steffensen, 3M Company
 Matthew Trevor, Ramada Convention Center of Aberdeen
 Rich Vincent, NEW TEC, Inc.
 Blake Woodward, Mettler Sichmeller Engineering
 Rachel Woodward, Mettler Sichmeller Engineering

2011

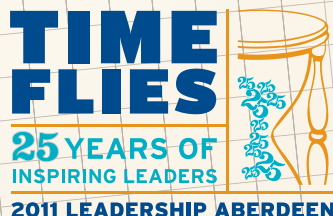
fun facts

- ▼ Attempted assassination of Arizona congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and subsequent shooting in Casas Adobes, Arizona at a Safeway grocery store killed six and wounded 13, including Giffords
- ▼ Flooding and mudslides in the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro killed more than 800
- ▼ At least 36 people were killed and more than 100 others wounded in a bombing at Domodedovo International Airport in Moscow, Russia
- ▼ A 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami hit the city of Sendai, in the Miyagi Prefecture of Japan causing over 7000 deaths with 20,000 missing from several towns - Tsunami warnings were issued and evacuations ordered along Japan's Pacific coast and at least 20 other countries, including the entire Pacific coast of North America and South America - Emergencies were declared at four nuclear power plants affected by the quake
- ▼ The United Nations Security Council voted 10-0 to create a no-fly zone over Libya in response to allegations of government aggression against civilians

**NOTE FROM
TROY MCKIBBEN**
Class of 2011

This year's Leadership Aberdeen program turned out to be a great learning experience for me. It was very interesting to learn about Aberdeen's history and how some of the businesses that are pillars in the community started many years ago. It was very evident that their own leaders have the business savvy and vision to carry them and our community into the future.

The 34 students in this year's class had a lot of passion and ideas about our community. It was enlightening to see the community through a wide variety of professionals' eyes. Through the experience of this class, our community leaders and our visit to see our state representatives in Pierre, I feel that we will all excel in leadership!





2011 Leadership Aberdeen

2011 marked the 25th year of the Leadership Aberdeen program. What a monumental occasion! 34 potential community leaders participated in the program that has been inspired by 25 years of training, experience, enthusiasm and community support.

In the fall of 2010, Aberdeen was named one of the Top 100 communities for Young People by the America's Promise Alliance. This designation set the stage for the class and helped determine the focus of their class project – mentoring youth. The class hosted an event called "A Tall for them All" in March of 2011. The event was a kick-off for the newly started Sidekicks mentoring program. What a success! The class was able to raise money for the new program, but more importantly, was able to secure Talls (community mentors) for Smalls (youth) in the community.

2011 Business partners of the program were: 3M Company of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Development Corporation, Absolutely! Aberdeen, Avera St. Luke's, Dacotah Bank, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation, Midcontinent Communications, Northern State University, NorthWest-ern Energy, Presentation College, Tel Serv Communications, and Web Water.

In 2011 the class attended Aberdeen Day at the State Capitol and had the opportunity to meet with new South Dakota Governor Daugaard as well as Lieutenant Governor Matt Michels and other agency directors.

The Class graduated on March 29th and the event was held in conjunction with the Chamber's Annual Meeting. Guest speaker at the graduation ceremony was Randy Grismer, 2010 George Award Winner. Holly Hoffman, of Survivor Nicaragua Fame, was the featured speaker at the banquet.

Class participants were:

Sabrina Adams, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Megan Beck, US Bank
 Kerry Beckler, BAE Systems
 Chris Beringer, Steven Lust Automotive
 Brenda Boyer, BAE Systems
 Dustin Buntrock, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Shaun Falken, Best Business Products, Inc.
 Megan Fix, QQP/Midstates, Inc.
 Nathan Gellhaus, Nathan Gellhaus
 Megan Gjernes, Best Western Ramkota Hotel
 Jeff Grobe, Steven Lust Automotive
 Barb Hauge, 3M Company
 Dennis Hotchkin, Home Federal Bank
 Valerie Jensen, NECOG
 Katie Kaiser, Kaleidoscope Media
 Lee Karels, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Deb Kavanaugh, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce

Al Kjenstad, US Bank
 Bruno Kuhfeld, Presentation College
 Kristie Martin, US Bank
 Pamela Martyn, Dacotah Bank
 Nitin Mathur, 3M Company
 Troy McKibben, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Diana Momanyi, Ramada Convention Center of Aberdeen
 Cal Nygaard, Aberdeen School District 6-1
 Melanie Remily, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Heather Sahli, Ramada Convention Center of Aberdeen
 Angela Senger, City of Aberdeen, Police Dept.
 Rob Senger, City of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Fire Rescue
 Ryan Simmons, Eide Bailly, LLP
 Jessi Stucke, Aberdeen American News
 Ryan Vogel, Siegel, Barnett & Schutz
 Thomas Vogel, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 Holly Wall, Absolutely! Aberdeen

2012

FUN FACTS

- ▼ We survived the end of the world! 2012 was claimed to be a great year of spiritual transformation (or apocalypse). Many esoteric sources interpreted the completion of the twelfth B'ak'tun cycle in the Long Count of the Maya calendar (which occurred on December 21 by the most widely held correlation) to mean there would be a major change in world order. It looks like so far, so good
- ▼ US President Barack Obama's re-election was one of the most read stories of the year. It was one of the most closely watched elections, with commentators all over the world waiting in anticipation to see who would become the leader of the most influential nation in the world
- ▼ The music industry was left grieving when singing legend Whitney Houston was found dead in her Los Angeles hotel room. The troubled singer and actress, whose battle with drugs and tumultuous relationship with husband Bobby Brown was well documented, died from accidental drowning in her hotel room bath while under the influence of drugs, aged 48
- ▼ The top three grossing movies in 2012 were: 1) Marvel's-The Avengers; 2) The Dark Knight Rises; and 3) The Hunger Games
- ▼ London hosted the Olympic Games for the third time in its history, the only city to have done so on this many occasions
- ▼ On August 23, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency announced that it was stripping Lance Armstrong of his record-seven Tour de France titles and barred him for life from the sport after concluding he used banned substances. Armstrong said he would no longer challenge USADA and declined to exercise his last option by entering arbitration

**NOTE FROM
EVAN FONDER**
Class of 2012

As an organization we have always supported the idea of sending our people through the Leadership Aberdeen program. Now having gone through it myself, I would absolutely recommend it.

I had a blast meeting a lot of new people in the area whom I am still in contact with on a regular basis, both personally and professionally. The Leadership curriculum was very well done.

Each week brought a new concept that really made me think about how I am leading today. We will be continuing to enroll our team members in the class each year for the foreseeable future.



2012 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

Thirty-two individuals participated in the 26th class of the Leadership Aberdeen program that kicked off in January. For their class project they decided to work with Volunteers of America, Dakotas, a non-profit, spiritually-based organization that reaches out to empower people of all ages to become healthier, self-sufficient, productive members of their community. The program works with any family with at least one child from conception to preschool. As an incentive for completing training, the family then earns Closet Cash which they can bring to the Children's Closet and shop for the items necessary to stock their nursery. The class was able to take a bare room, and create a wonderful "closet" full of everything someone would need to raise a healthy, happy baby. The class organized a community baby shower, where thousands of dollars worth of items were donated to the Closet. In addition, participants spent numerous hours, outside of their class schedule, to set up shelving, displays, and organize inventory for the closet. Their hard work will make a difference in the lives of Aberdeen youth and families for years to come.

The class graduated on March 29, 2012 during a ceremony held at the Best Western Ramkota Theatre, Alex Grieben of Dacotah Bank was presented with the 2012 Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award by Glenn Jakober of Avera St. Luke's. This award is presented annually to one individual from the class who best exemplifies Dale's commitment to servant leadership. Other speakers included Derrick Dinger, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network and recipient of the Chamber's 2011 Emerging Leader and Evan Fonder of RDO Equipment spoke on behalf of the class.

The 2012 Leadership Aberdeen business partners were: 3M Company of Aberdeen; Aberdeen Development Corporation; Absolutely! Aberdeen; Avera St. Luke's; Dacotah Bank; Glacial Lakes Energy; Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation; Midcontinent Communications; Northern State University; NorthWestern Energy; and Presentation College.

Class participants were:

Audrey Amdahl, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Alissa Battest, QQP/Midstates Printing, Inc.
 Kim Bowman, Dacotah Bank
 Andy Dawkins, 3M Company
 Terry Fleming, Glacial Lakes Energy
 Evan Fonder, RDO Equipment Co.
 Alex Grieben, Dacotah Bank
 Aaron Grunewaldt, Best Western Ramkota Hotel
 Mary Haggerty, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Sheila Hansen, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Jenny Hepper, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Phillip Hoyt, White Rose Oasis
 Angela Huff, Parkview Nursery, Inc.
 Joshua Israel, US Bank
 Jaela Johnson, Primrose Management
 Melanie Koehlmoos, Aberdeen Development Corporation

Kristin Kroell, Wyndham Hotel Group
 Abby Kroupa, Aberdeen Downtown Association
 Megan Market, Plaques & Engraving
 Dan Matheson, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Philip Mittleider, Northern State University Student
 James Monson, RDO Equipment Co.
 John Pfeiffer, Western Printing Company
 Max Pfeiffer, Western Printing Company
 Steve Rasmussen, Northern State University
 Christopher Smith, Glacial Lakes Energy
 Erica Sperry, Northern Electric Cooperative
 Mitchell Stump, 3M Company
 Kellie Tollefson, Home Federal Bank
 Amanda Truebenbach, John Sieh Agency, Inc.
 Todd Wanshura, Banner Engineering
 Mary Anne Whitman, Presentation College

2013

fun facts

- ▼ Lance Armstrong admits to doping in all seven of his tour de France Victories on January 19, 2013
- ▼ On March, 13 2013, a new Pope for the Catholic Church was elected - Pope Francis of Argentina
- ▼ One of the most celebrated film critics of all time, famous for his thumbs up or thumbs down, Roger Ebert died April 4, 2013
- ▼ Twin explosions near the finish line of the Boston Marathon killed three people and injured at least 170 others on April 15, 2013
- ▼ Prince William and Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge welcomed a son, Prince George Alexander Louis on July 24, 2013
- ▼ Alex Rodriguez, New York Yankee MLB player, is banned for 211 games for using human growth hormones on August 5, 2013

**NOTE FROM
JENNIFER KILBER**
(class of 2013)

Leadership Aberdeen gave me an opportunity to network with business leaders in the community and share leadership ideas and techniques with them. I also had the opportunity to visit and tour businesses within the community to learn about their leadership practices. I not only learned about businesses within the community, but also about city and state leadership. Our trip to Pierre was unforgettable, and it was there that I formed life-long friends and colleagues.

I am also proud to be a member of the 2013 Leadership Aberdeen class that was able to raise over \$8,650 for Camp Gilbert and juvenile diabetes through our snow golf, SNOLF, event. We couldn't have done it without all the corporate sponsorships and support from our employers, friends, and family.

I would highly recommend Leadership Aberdeen to anyone who wants to better themselves as a leader and get involved in the community. Although it takes dedication and is a big time commitment, the lessons learned and friendships formed were most definitely worth it.



2013 Leadership Aberdeen

Twenty-seven individuals participated in the 27th class of the Leadership Aberdeen program that kicked off on January 10, 2013. For their class project, the group decided to bring awareness to a growing health issue facing our youth: juvenile diabetes. The class organized "SNOLF – Putting For a Purpose", a snow golf tournament held on frozen Wylie Lake. Sixteen teams competed on St. Patrick's Day and numerous businesses were sponsors. The class donated over \$8,650.00 to Camp Gilbert. Camp Gilbert is a camp for kids with diabetes ages 8-18. It is an opportunity to make lasting friendships with other kids who have diabetes and staff provides medical assistance for campers around the clock. Camp Gilbert is run largely by volunteers and depends on community support for funding.

The class graduated on March 21, 2013 during a ceremony held at the Best Western Ramkota Theatre. Rachel Haigh-Blume of Northeast South Dakota Area Health Education Center was presented with the 2013 Dale Stein Leadership through service award by Glenn Jakober. This award is presented annually to one individual in the class who best exemplifies servant leadership. Matt Prehn, the 2012 Emerging Leader Award recipient spoke to the class and Tyler Oliver of the Aberdeen American News was chosen to speak on behalf of the class.

The 2013 Leadership Aberdeen business partners were: 3M Company of Aberdeen, Avera St. Luke's, Midcontinent Communications, Northern State University, Presentation College, Glacial Lakes Energy, and South Dakota Wheat Growers.

Class participants were:

Tim Beckham, Presentation College
 Bridget Brevik, Quality Quick Print/Midstates Printing, Inc.
 Tim Crabtree, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC
 Matthew Erickson, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Leslie Ford, Redfield Energy, LLC
 Taylor Gosch, RDO Equipment Co.
 Jennifer Gray, Aspire
 Rachel Haigh-Blume, NE South Dakota Area Health Education Center
 Davin Johnson, Cornerstones Career Learning Center, Inc.
 Jenny Kay, Quality Quick Print/Midstates Printing, Inc.
 Jennifer Kilber, Aberdeen Development Corporation
 Dustin Klapperich, RDO Equipment Co.
 Brad Luedtke, 3M Company
 Rachel McCleary, Avera St. Luke's

Dalita Meyer, Avera St. Luke's
 Tyler Oliver, Aberdeen American News
 Eric Payne, Insurance Plus
 Andy Rehder, 3M Company
 Dustin Renville, 3M Company
 Emily Richardt, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Theresa Schaffer, Great Western Bank
 Margaret Schmidt, Avera St. Luke's
 Ryan Schneider, Wells Fargo Bank, NA
 Michael Seyer, RDO Equipment Co.
 Dick Stotz, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC
 David Williams, BAE Systems
 Jason Zacher, Banner Engineering

2014

in facts

- ▼ Super Bowl XLVIII, airing on February 2, 2014 becomes the most viewed television event in the United States with over 111 million viewers
- ▼ The film "12 Years a Slave" nabs Best Picture in March 2014
- ▼ Christopher Columbus's flagship, the Santa Maria, is discovered north off the coast of Haiti on May 13, 2014
- ▼ Psy's "Gangnam Style" becomes the first video to reach 2 billion views on YouTube on May 31, 2014
- ▼ The West African Ebola outbreak is categorized as an international concern by the WHO in August 2014
- ▼ Lloyd Christmas and Harry Dunne return to the big screen in Dumb and Dumber To, premiering in November 2014

**NOTE FROM
KELLIE MENSEN**
Class of 2014

Through Leadership Aberdeen I gained some great tools and resources that will help me continue to grow as a leader. From a skillset perspective, we had opportunities to learn about and practice working effectively with a variety of personalities — this was especially helpful for me as it was an area where I was looking to grow. Our biggest test of managing personalities was in our group project and while I'll happily brag about the financial success of our event for Safe Harbor, it is a testament to the business who supported the cause as well. Leadership Aberdeen also exposed me to a number of incredible professionals in our area — from the class speakers to our class of participants — the network I created has already proven to be valuable both professionally and personally. The time commitment of Leadership Aberdeen is well worth what I took from the class and I would highly recommend it to others.



2014 Leadership Aberdeen

2014 marked the 28th year of the Leadership Aberdeen program with 29 participants. For their class project the class decided to work with Safe Harbor and raise funds for their building campaign. Safe Harbor serves women, men and children by providing shelter and resources for making positive life choices. The Leadership Aberdeen class presented a check for more than \$35,000 to Gina Karst at Safe Harbor. The class raised the money through business donations and an event called "A Goal for Safe Harbor."

During the graduation ceremony, on March 26, 2014, the graduates received diplomas and heard from different speakers about leadership roles in the community. RDO Equipment's Evan Fonder, the 2013 Emerging Leader award winner, spoke about what comes next and how the graduates can get involved. Kellie Mensen, of Production Monkeys, was chosen by the class to speak on their behalf. The Dale Stein Leadership through Service award went to Patricia Kappes of Avera St. Luke's.

Class participants were:

Travis Adney, NSU Student sponsored by Steven Lust Automotive
 Logan Anderson, Dakota Broadcasting LLC
 Robert Baker, BAE Systems
 Rachelle Carrels, Plains Commerce Bank
 Adam Christenson, Schwan Financial Group, LLC
 Carrie Cole, Aberdeen American News
 Ann Cole, John Sieh Agency, Inc.
 Ryan Erickson, Plains Commerce Bank
 Chad Gardner, BAE Systems
 Joe Gillespie, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC - Mina
 Matthew Heiberger, 3M Company
 Ona Hughes, Plains Commerce Bank
 Patricia Kappes, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Djamel Khali, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Alison Kiesz, SD Department of Agriculture
 Kelli Krause, Presentation College

Andy Lohse, RDO Equipment Co.
 Scott Lunzman, Avera Medical Group
 Jeff Malsam, Ramada Convention Center of Aberdeen
 Kelli Mensen, Production Monkeys
 Matthew Milosevich, RDO Equipment Co.
 Kristan Morris, Best Western Ramkota Hotel
 Jeremy Nelson, 3M Company
 Dennis Oswald, Home Federal Bank
 Jessica Rehder, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Trevor Samson, Dacotah Bank
 Joshua Schmidt, 3M Company
 Eric Schwan, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota
 Amy Scott, Brown County Fair

2015

fun facts

- ▼ And the Oscar for Best Picture goes to....Birdman!
- ▼ The original Spock from Star Trek, Leonard Nimoy died on Feb. 27 at age 83 - he passed due to "end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease"
- ▼ The Seattle Seahawks beat the Green Bay Packers 28-22 at the NFC Championship Game on January 18th
- ▼ After 33 years as a late-night TV host, David Letterman said his final goodbye on May 20, 2015 - four presidents opened the final taping of "The Late Show," and celebrity friends delivered the Top Ten List dedicated to Letterman
- ▼ Jurassic World premiered on June 14th and was the first film to make \$500 million worldwide its opening weekend
- ▼ Real estate mogul Donald Trump launches his campaign for President on June 15th
- ▼ The US Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that same sex marriage is a legal right across all US States on June 26th
- ▼ Pope Francis becomes the 1st pope to address the US Congress on September 24th - he names Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day as his American heroes

**NOTE FROM
MATT PEARSON**
Class of 2015

I found Leadership Aberdeen to be an outstanding program that allowed me to gain a better understanding of leadership while further developing and improving my own leadership skills. The curriculum was well structured and the quality of speakers surpassed all expectations. It was great to be able to hear some of the area's top business and political leaders give their own personal views on leadership, the experiences that shaped them, and the everyday challenges they continue to face. In each of these talks, I was able to find experiences or lessons that I could relate to and I was quickly able to apply what I had learned into my own personal and professional life. I honestly cannot think of another opportunity where I could have taken part in the shared experiences of so many talented and respected people. Taking this class has definitely been one of the best investments I have made to improve my own leadership abilities.



2015 Leadership Aberdeen

Twenty-eight individuals participated in the 29th year of the Leadership Aberdeen program. For their class project, the group teamed up with Hub Area Habitat for Humanity to add a brand new service and resource in the community – the Help Build It Center. The group set up and opened the center which accepts donations of usable building supplies, furniture, tools and working appliances. They resell those items and proceeds go towards several Hub Area Habitat programs. The class presented Jim Dodds, Hub Area Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, with a check for over \$6000 at their graduation. After graduation, several class members joined the board of directors and assisted with moving the Help Build It Center to a new, larger location.

During the graduation ceremony, the graduates received diplomas and heard from the 2014 Emerging Leader Rachel Kippley. Lorna Johnson of Century 21 was chosen by the class to speak on their behalf. The Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award was presented to Matt Pearson of South Dakota Wheat Growers.

Class participants were:

Tara Arntsen, Northern State University
 Lauren Baer, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota
 Todd Buckstead, Edward Jones
 Richard Budnar, 3M Company
 Luke Bunke, US Bank
 Logan Dosch, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
 Nancy Graham, Midcontinent Communications
 Cody Hageman, Plains Commerce Bank
 Ioana Hojda, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Lucas Hoover, Helms & Associates
 Lorna Johnston, Century 21 Investment Realtors
 Nick Kallhoff, RDO Equipment Co.
 Rose Kirchesler, BAE Systems
 Kristina Maddocks, Dakota Broadcasting

Marcia Medley, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota
 Jeff Moench, Eide Bailly, LLP
 Jordon Moench, Quality Quick Print
 Robin Mohr, Avera St. Luke's
 Matt Pearson, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Leif Redinger, Helms & Associates
 Cody Roggatz, City of Aberdeen
 Stacy Sawatzky, BAE Systems
 Brandon Smid, Helms & Associates
 Trevor Steen, Dacotah Bank
 Steven Thithavong, Aberdeen Federal Credit Union
 Kyle VanVoorst, RDO Equipment
 Kristine Wollman, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 Adam Zeller, 3M Company

2016

fun facts

- ▼ The High School graduation rate across the United States was at its highest
- ▼ 2016 may be the worst year so far for deaths of musical icons. In 2016 we lost David Bowie, Glenn Frey, Prince, Merle Haggard, Leonard Cohen, George Michael and several other notable performers
- ▼ Hillary Clinton's nomination as Democratic presidential nominee in July marked the first time a woman has led a majority party presidential ticket
- ▼ Celebrity couple Brad Pitt and Angela Jolie shocked the world with their divorce announcement in September 2016
- ▼ The Chicago Cubs win the World Series over the Cleveland Indians on November 2, 2016 for the first time in more than a century
- ▼ Candace Payne's viral video, Chewbacca Mom, promoting the simple joys of life, had more than 160 million views on Facebook
- ▼ On July 7, 2016 Micah Johnson ambushed and fired upon a group of police officers in Dallas, TX killing five officers and injuring nine others. It was the deadliest incident for US law enforcement since the September 11 attacks

**NOTE FROM
ZACH ANDERSON**
Class of 2016

Leadership Aberdeen helped me better understand how I fit into my role at work as well as how to be a leader in the community. Before leadership Aberdeen I focused on my small circle of interests and abilities and now I better understand how important it is to get involved and be a part of our community. Because of Leadership Aberdeen I got to be a part of something bigger than myself and work with a great group of individuals from all facets of life and I will forever be grateful for my time and the opportunity given to me.



2016 Leadership Aberdeen

2016 was another milestone year of the Leadership Aberdeen program as it celebrated its 30th year with the largest class so far, with 35 participants. For their class project, the group chose to work with Spurs Therapeutic Riding Center of Aberdeen. They held a "Horse Pie Bingo" event, bake sale and raffle. The class presented a check for \$16,000 to Spurs staff and board members which was used to build a barn and coral at their facility. The group was also able to work with local companies and contractors to donate time and equipment for the building project. During the graduation ceremony, the graduates heard from Katie Washnok, the 2015 Emerging Leader Award Recipient as well as V.J. Smith, South Dakota author and national keynote speaker. Speaking on behalf of the class was Jillaine Naasz and the 2016 Dale Stein Award recipient was Darin Beckius of Dacotah Bank. 2016 Business Partners were: 3M Company, Avera St. Luke's, BAE Systems, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota, RDO Equipment, and South Dakota Wheat Growers.

Class participants were:

Zachary Anderson, Wells Fargo Direct Auto
 Kaitlin Awe, Dakota Supply Group
 Darin Beckius, Dacotah Bank
 Andrew Bell, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota
 Sara Botkin, Northern State University
 Anna Boyd, 3M Company
 April Buller, Clark Engineering Corp.
 Jack Daly, Climate Control Inc.
 Ryan Dell, Richards, Tonner, Oliver, & Fischbach
 Kelli Fischer, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Beth Geary, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Melissa Gilbert, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Jason Gonsor, Midwest Maintenance
 Bridget Herceg, Plains Commerce Bank
 Tarah Heupel, Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
 Brenda Joy, BAE Systems
 Matt Kiefer, House of Glass
 Jennifer Kludt, Avera St. Luke's Hospital

Ashley Larson, Aberdeen Federal Credit Union
 Beth Locken, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Amanda McClain, Wells Fargo Education Financial Services
 Chelsey Morrow, Clark Engineering Corp.
 Jillaine Naasz, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Jenn Parsons, Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
 Judon Reinbold, Plains Commerce Bank
 Kaleb Rodgers, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 Martin Sabolo, Northern State University
 Karen Schaefer, Helms & Associates
 Sharon Schwan, BAE Systems
 Ben Smith, Twin City Fan Companies
 Lance Tietz, RDO Equipment Company
 Jill Vining, The Training Place
 Stacie Wiedebush, Sewer Duck, Inc.
 April Wirth, Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area
 Scott Woizeschke, 3M Company

2017

FUN FACTS

- ▼ After one of the most contentious elections in US history, Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States on January 20, 2017
- ▼ Millions of people worldwide joined the Women's March on January 21st in response to Trump's Inauguration. It became the largest single-day protest in American history
- ▼ A total solar eclipse is visible for the first time in nearly four decades on August 21, 2017 in the contiguous US
- ▼ The Oscar for Best Picture goes to Moonlight. It became the first film with an all-black cast, the first LGBT film and the second lowest-grossing film domestically to win the best picture award
- ▼ The US Military launches 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at an air base in Syria in response to a chemical weapons attack on a rebel-held town
- ▼ On October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on a crowd of concertgoers on the Las Vegas strip leaving 58 people dead and 546 injured. The incident is the deadliest mass shooting committed by an individual, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock of Mesquite, Nevada

**NOTE FROM
OLE OLESON**
Class of 2017

Leadership Aberdeen was an unforgettable experience that facilitates the creation of new friendships and bonds throughout the community while introducing the class to many of the companies in the area! Anyone that lives in the Aberdeen area should be begging to be a part of the next class. This is especially true for those of us that are relatively new to the community. I am overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Leadership Aberdeen Class of 2017!



2017 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

In 2017, there were 34 participants in the program from 28 different organizations. For their project, the class hosted the 1st Annual Day of Distinction on Friday, April 21, 2017 to a crowd of over 250 people. The Day of Distinction provided an opportunity for people in the Aberdeen area to gather with their peers and listen to five locally and nationally recognized speakers for personal and professional development. The them was "Build It Up" and the topics focused on community engagement and responsibility. The class donated a portion of the proceeds to the Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area. Speaking for the class during graduation was Brady Carda of Sanford Health and Steve Huettle of JDH Construction received the Dale Stein Leadership Though Service Award. Leadership Aberdeen business partners for 2017 included: 3M of Aberdeen, Avera St. Luke's, BAE Systems, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota, RDO Equipment, and South Dakota Wheat Growers.

Class participants were:

Wayne Beck, BAE Systems
 Myranda Becking, Dacotah Bank
 Holly Behrens, Siegel, Barnett & Schutz
 Joe Bierschbach, Hub City, Inc.
 Garrett Brunmaier, A & B Business, Inc.
 Brady Carda, Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
 Katie Carlson, Reunion Student Loan Finance Corp.
 Chad Carter, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC - Mina
 Jon Christenson, Northern State University
 Angie Cleberg, United Way of Northeastern SD, Inc
 Brett Dick, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota
 Rachel Dix, Alliance Contracting LLC
 Brooke Edgar, Helms & Associates
 Eric Ellingson, 3M Company
 Bea Fischer, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Derek Geditz, Best Western/Minerva's
 Robert Goscicki, Aberdeen Federal Credit Union
 Matilda Grobe, Plains Commerce Bank

Cristi Grunendike, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Leah Haaland, 3M Company
 Rhonda Hilsendeger, Plains Commerce Bank
 Liesl Hovel, Lutheran Social Services
 Steve Huettl, JDH Construction Inc.
 Alexander Johnson, Hub City, Inc.
 John Kannegieter, Insurance Plus
 Emily Monsen, South Dakota Wheat Growers
 Ole Olesen, Siegel, Barnett & Schutz
 Megan Reshetar, Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area
 Eric Rieker, BAE Systems
 Elissa Sand, Aberdeen American News
 Amy Scepaniak, SD School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
 Chad Simes, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC - Mina
 Colin Tipton, 3M Company
 Ryan Weigel, Eide Bailly LLP
 Taylor Wensmann, Quality Quick Print

2018

FUN FACTS

- ▼ South Dakota elects their first female Governor, Kristi Noem
- ▼ The #MeToo Movement goes global as millions came forward to share their stories
- ▼ Comedian Bill Cosby is convicted on all three counts of aggravated indecent assault for drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand and is later sentenced to 3-10 years in state prison
- ▼ A fire breaks out in November, burning through the town of Paradise, California. It's the most destructive wildfire in California history, and the deadliest
- ▼ Days after multiple reports indicated that Aretha Franklin was "gravely ill," the Queen of Soul died on August 16 from pancreatic cancer - She was 76
- ▼ Marvel's *Black Panther* was the highest grossing movie in 2018, having grossed over \$700 million stateside
- ▼ The Hub City Hotshots, members of the Expedition League, began play in May 2018 at Fossum Field

NOTE FROM CHRIS MALSOM Class of 2018

As a graduate from the Leadership Aberdeen Class of 2018, I have seen myself grow from my experiences, not only as a person, but as a leader within my organization. I noticed as I began the class, I would be the one that would sit back and observe, and shy away from engaging with others and

presenters from each week. As the weeks went on I noticed myself getting more involved, and the more experiences I had, the more confidence I would have in myself. I was even lucky enough to receive the Dale Stein "Leadership through Service" award, which shows how Leadership Aberdeen can transform a person from being a shy, quiet person who just likes to observe, to someone who demonstrates great leadership through service to others. This helped me to feel like I was developing and could become a leader that is capable of mentoring and shaping a successful team. I know I am just beginning my transition into leadership at my organization, and that I will have many successes and failures, but after completing the Leadership Aberdeen class I will have many more tools to help me provide the best possibly leadership to my team to help them become successful within their positions. After Leadership Aberdeen, I have become more involved within our community, especially after our class project "Signs of the Times" has evolved and allowed us to revitalize and restore faded signs on Aberdeen's historic buildings. I also have become more involved within the chamber and have joined one of their volunteer committees and am currently serving as a Diplomat. I have enjoyed the feeling of being able to help out or community, as well as the time I have gotten to meet new people and see how volunteering my time can really make a difference within our community.



2018 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

2018 marked the 31st year of the Leadership Aberdeen program. There were 31 participants from 25 different Aberdeen businesses. For their class project, the group restored "old ghost signs" or painted advertisements in downtown Aberdeen. Local businesses sponsored the effort and the class used local artists and volunteers to complete the painting which continued into 2019. Speaking for the class at their graduation was Megan Rosendahl and Chris Malsom received the "Dale Stein Leadership Through Service" Award. Leadership Aberdeen Business Partners in 2018 were 3M Company of Aberdeen, Avera St. Luke's, Dacotah Bank, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC, Northern State University, Sanford Health, and Wheat Growers.

Class participants were:

Lisa Anderson, Aberdeen Area Chamber
 Janie Borkowski, Northern State University
 Nicklas Burilovich, 3M Company
 Kayla Cavalier, MIDCO
 Alicia Courtney, Avera St. Luke's
 Tammy Doerr, Plains Commerce Bank
 Donn Fricke, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC
 Will Griffin III, Agtegra Cooperative
 Ashley Hansen, Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
 John Hanson, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC
 Aaron Hawkinson, Quality Quick Print
 Lisa Heathman, Best Western - Aberdeen
 Jordan Hintz, NECOG
 Tanya Holzer, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Courtney Hostetter, Insurance Plus
 Ashlee Kienow, Agtegra Cooperative

Cole Kukowski, Edward Jones - Mark Haverkamp
 Chris Malsom, Avera St. Luke's
 Sarah McFarland, Presentation College
 Joseph Mehlhaff, Great Plains Bank
 Troy Miller, Aberdeen Federal Credit Union
 Rita Moe, Aberdeen Area CVB
 Justin Roll, READiTECH
 Megan Rosendahl, Aberdeen American News
 Jane Schaffer, Presentation Sisters
 Spencer Sommers, CO-OP Architecture
 Courteney Steinhauser, Rhodes Anderson Insurance
 Kaytee Vieira, Insurance Plus
 Tom Waletich, Agtegra Cooperative
 Joel Welke, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 BJ Wiest, Dacotah Bank, East

2019

FUN FACTS

- ▼ Jay-Z was named the world's first billionaire rapper by Forbes magazine
- ▼ ...And the Oscar for Best Picture goes to Green Book
- ▼ The 116th Congress began in January with a record-breaking 125 women
- ▼ Travis Schaunaman was elected Aberdeen's new Mayor, over incumbent Mike Levsen who served for 15 years
- ▼ Tim Conway, Hollywood's most enduring clown of tv variety shows passed away at the age of 85 in May
- ▼ Severe flooding in the spring hit Midwest states hard shutting down roadways and affecting planting of corn and soybeans
- ▼ The US beat the Netherlands in the 2019 Women's World Cup, winning their 4th title

**NOTE FROM
ANDREW MILLER**
(class of 2019)

Leadership Aberdeen was a great experience for me. No matter where you are in life, leadership skills are valuable tools to have. Going through Leadership Aberdeen provided me with the information and the resources for me to become a successful leader in the community. The experience of networking with leaders from town and getting their insight was very valuable. The leadership course offers opportunities to connect and share ideas with other leaders in your class. Not only are you able to connect on a professional level, you develop friendships. I am proud to be part of Leadership Aberdeen, where they help you grow and to become a great leader in the community. Thank you.



2019 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

In 2019, there were a total of 27 participants from 21 different Aberdeen Businesses. The class worked with the Journey Home on their class project. Their event, "Night in a Car" for Journey Home was designed to raise awareness about homelessness in our community and raise funds for the home to continue operations. Over 100 people attended the event, with about 36 spending the night in their car. The group raised \$20,000 for the Journey Home. At the graduation ceremony, Culyer Meade spoke to the class and Andrew Miller was selected as the 2019 "Dale Stein Award" recipient. Leadership Aberdeen Business Partners included: 3M Company of Aberdeen, Agtegra Cooperative, Avera St. Luke's, Dacotah Bank, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota, Northern State University, and Sanford Health.

Class participants were:

Kyle Ammann, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC
 Shane Bettmann, Avera St. Luke's
 Kenneth Bjur, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC
 Chelsea Boeckman, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota
 Ashley Bratton, Plains Commerce Bank
 Elissa Dickey, Northern State University
 Wesley Doney, 3M Company
 Heather Fettig, SD DLR - Aberdeen Office
 Korine Grismer, Aberdeen Area Chamber
 Chad Hoffmann, Midstates Inc
 Travis Hoyle, Dakota Supply Group
 Sarah Klein, Plains Commerce Bank
 Culyer Meade, Aberdeen American News

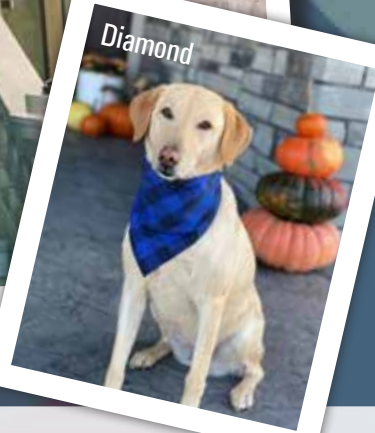
Shelby Meyer, Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area
 Andrew Miller, Sanford Health Aberdeen Clinic
 Tess Moeller, Avera St. Luke's Hospital
 Jennifer Monsen, 3M Company
 Jodi Myburgh, Dacotah Bank
 Paula Nelson, City of Aberdeen
 Jacob Robertson, NorthWestern Energy
 Renae Rohrbach, Quality Quick Print
 Doug Rush, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota
 Kristen Sauer, US Bank
 Susan Schaible-Heiser, US Bank
 Dustin Stieha, RDO Equipment Company
 Alex Vogel, Dakotaland Federal Credit Union
 Ashley Wolf, Banner Engineering

FUN FACTS

- ▼ The CDC confirms the first case of coronavirus in the US
- ▼ Kobe Bryant, former pro basketball player with the LA Lakers and one of the game's all-time greats was killed, along with his daughter and seven other people, in a helicopter crash
- ▼ Japan's Prime Minister announced the postponement of the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, the first time ever for something other than war
- ▼ The docuseries "The Tiger King" debuted on Netflix, with over 34.3 million viewers in the first 10 days alone
- ▼ Prince Harry and Meghan Markle officially step down as senior royals in the British monarchy, making their home in Los Angeles
- ▼ George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer triggering protests, Black Lives Matter, and conversations about justice and equality
- ▼ President Donald Trump travels to Keystone, SD to attend an early "4th of July" Fireworks Display at Mount Rushmore
- ▼ Amazon announces that they will be building an Amazon Fulfillment Center in Sioux Falls
- ▼ Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the longest serving woman on the US Supreme Court, died at age 87
- ▼ President Trump announced he and the first lady tested positive for the coronavirus
- ▼ Days after the election, Joe Biden was elected the 46th President of the United States

**NOTE FROM
KATIE SCHREURS**
Class of 2020

Leadership Aberdeen was such a valuable experience for me, I made lasting relationships with so many people in my community and learned to pivot and roll with the punches as the Covid-19 pandemic altered our original project plans. I would suggest Leadership Aberdeen for anyone looking to gain leadership experience and a better understanding of our great community.



2020 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

The 2020 Leadership program started like normal, but with only a few weeks left, COVID-19 hit South Dakota! So it was time to pivot and we did just that. We were able to finish classes via ZOOM and held a virtual graduation a few months late in October. There were 25 in the class from 15 different businesses and organizations. The class decided early on that they wanted to work with the Aberdeen Area Humane Society to help them with their new building campaign. Their original event, Pins for Paws, needed to change due to COVID restrictions, but the class rebounded with an even better event - the Hub City Hound Contest. This online photo contest and fundraiser raised \$22,000 for the Humane Society campaign and in the end, Diamond, shown here was selected as the 2020 Hub City Hound. Katie Schreurs of Banner Engineering was selected as the 2019 Dale Stein Award Winner, and her dog Tank came in 3rd place for the Hub City Hound Contest. 2020 Leadership Aberdeen Business Partners included: 3M Company, Agtegra Cooperative, Avera St. Luke's, Dacotah Bank, Glacial Lakes Energy, Molded Fiber Glass, Northern State University, and Sanford Aberdeen. It was a unique year to be sure, but the class charged ahead and made the most of it:

Class participants were:

Ali Alali, Molded Fiber Glass SD
 Jared Allan, 3M Company
 Leland Armbright, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Andrew Bergan, Dacotah Bank
 Nick Bittner, Dacotah Bank
 Dominika Blum, Northern State University
 Roy Burnett, CashWa Distributing Co
 Connor Compton, Banner Engineering
 Jason Ewing, RDO Equipment Company
 Brent Faen, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC - Mina
 Olaf Hanson, Dacotah Bank
 Jodi Hepperle, Avera St Luke's Hospital
 Rose Johnson, 3M Company

Aimee Kamp, US Congressman Dusty Johnson
 Elyce Kastigar, Aberdeen Family YMCA
 Kila LeGrand, Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
 Victoria Lusk, Avera St Luke's
 Kelli McCulloch, SD Dept of Labor & Regulation
 Michael Moulton, 3M Company
 Nathan Pabst, Molded Fiber Glass SD
 Katie Parsons, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC - Mina
 Kristopher Reed, Siegel, Barnett & Schutz
 Katie Schreurs, Banner Engineering
 Josh VanLaecken, Northern State University
 Bradley Wolfe, Northern State University

2021

FUN FACTS

- ▼ Demonstrators storm the US Capitol in Washington during congressional certificate of Joe Biden win, resulting in five deaths and evacuation of lawmakers
- ▼ Joe Biden is inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States and Kamala Harris as the 49th Vice President, the first female, Black or South Asian Vice President
- ▼ Bernie Sanders mittens raise \$1.8 million for Vermont charities after images go viral
- ▼ The Tampa Bay Buccaneers dominated defending champions Kansas City Chiefs at Super Bowl LV
- ▼ Dolly Parton receives the Moderna vaccine she gave \$1 million to help develop
- ▼ Nomadland, which was partially filmed in South Dakota, received Best Picture at the Academy Awards
- ▼ Juneteenth National Independence Day Act making June 19th a federal holiday is signed into law
- ▼ Medical marijuana becomes legal in South Dakota
- ▼ Billionaire Richard Branson flies to the edge of space on his Virgin Galactic rocket plane
- ▼ American gymnast Simone Biles withdraws from the women's team finals at the Olympic Games in Tokyo
- ▼ South Dakota's population grows by 72,000, with Aberdeen increasing 9.2% to 28,495
- ▼ The US passes the 35 million mark in COVID-19 cases with California recording 4 million cases
- ▼ Flash flooding in middle Tennessee kills 22 with dozens missing

**NOTE FROM
CARLOS CAMACHO
MARRERO**
(class of 2021)

The Leadership Aberdeen program is a great improvement tool. This program will expose you to problem-solving dynamics within a group of people, something necessary to survive in the business world. The best part about it is, that the end result of the program is to contribute to your community.



2021 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

The 2021 Leadership Aberdeen program was delayed due to COVID-19, with the class shortened a bit and running from April through June 2021. Luckily, classes were able to be held in person with safety measures put in place. There were 34 in the class representing 23 different businesses and organizations. The schedule stayed mostly the same, except that the class was not able to take the annual trip to Pierre for "Aberdeen Day" that is a highlight for many in the class. But, the class bonded through axe throwing, tours and of course planning their class project. The 2021 class created "Ask Me About Aberdeen" which was an effort to welcome newcomers to the community. They set up booths at various community events around town in 2021 and handed out backpacks with community swag and Aberdeen information. Jennifer Barnes of Avera spoke at the class graduation and presented trophies to each member of the class highlighting their best "leadership attribute." The Dale Stein Award Winner was Heidi Johnson of Liquid Capital of the Dakotas. Leadership Aberdeen Business Partners included: 3M Company, Agtegra Cooperative, Avera St. Luke's, Dacotah Bank, Glacial Lakes Energy, Molded Fiber Glass, Northern State University, and Sanford Aberdeen.

Class participants were:

Jordan Allbee, Helms & Associates
 Jennifer Barnes, Avera St. Luke's
 Adam Barnhardt, Molded Fiber Glass
 Jerry Blahut, 3M Company
 Hope Brudvig, MIDCO
 Brittney Bulson, Agtegra Cooperative
 Carlos Camacho Marrero, Dakota Financial Services
 Stephen Deduck, Northern State University
 Shawn Emery, CashWa Distributing Co.
 Amanda Gibson, Molded Fiber Glass
 Katherine Grandstrand, Aberdeen Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Jeannie Haaland, ZuntaFi
 Cayley Hammond, Twin City Fan Companies
 Jason Henslee, Northern State University
 Kayla Heuer, RAM Housing Specialists Inc.
 Brett Hoffmann, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC-Aberdeen

Cody Holt, Midstates Inc.
 Heidi Johnson, Liquid Capital of the Dakotas
 Daniel Koch, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC-Aberdeen
 Grant Kurkowski, Helms & Associates
 Josh Latterell, Elm Digital Marketing LLC
 Sunny Lester, Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
 Ashley Lopes, RAM Housing Specialists Inc.
 Jeannette McClain, Brown County Auditor's Office
 Jeannie Michaels, 3M Company
 Dr. Amy Munsterman, Legacy Chiropractic PLLC
 Lesleann Palmer, Northeast Council of Governments
 Jessica Puente Castro, 3M Company
 Trenia Rexinger, Dakota Broadcasting LLC
 Kami Spieker, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Shannon Stewart, Avera St. Luke's
 Neil Viola, 3M Company

2022

FUN FACTS

- ▼ The 2022 Winter Olympics was held in February 2022 in Beijing, China
- ▼ Actor Will Smith slapped host Chris Rock on live television at the Academy Awards, then won the Oscar for Best Actor
- ▼ Global COVID-19 death toll surpasses 6 Million, with the US at 1 Million deaths
- ▼ The US Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade
- ▼ Queen Elizabeth II dies at the age of 96
- ▼ Supply chain delays cause baby formula shortage across the United States
- ▼ Elon Musk takes ownership of Twitter
- ▼ Donald Trump announces plans to run for a second presidency in 2024

**QUOTE BY
BRITTNEY
CURRENCE**
(Class of 2022)

I really enjoyed my time during Leadership Aberdeen. My favorite part of the program was learning the rich history of Aberdeen and surrounding areas. There are so many attributes that go into being a great leader and creating a prosperous community. It was motivating to learn core leadership values from different businesses in the area and how they all come together to benefit the community as a whole.



2022 LEADERSHIP ABERDEEN

The 2022 Leadership Aberdeen class had 28 participants from 21 different businesses. The class project was the Hub City Heroes Youth Mentoring Program. They coordinated efforts with both Lutheran Social Services and the Aberdeen School District to develop the program, which was ultimately implemented by the Aberdeen School District in 2023. The class raised over \$5,000 for program start-up costs and several members of the class committed to being mentors for the program. At the graduation ceremony, Tanner Myers of Agtegra Cooperative spoke on behalf of the class. Rebecca Biegler with the Aberdeen Housing Authority received the "Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award." 2022 Business Partners included: 3M Company, Agtegra Cooperative, Avera St. Luke's, Dacotah Bank, Glacial Lakes Energy, Northern State University, Presentation College, and Sanford Aberdeen.

Class participants were:

Adam Baroni, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Stacy Bauer, Northern State University
 Rebecca Biegler, Aberdeen Housing Authority & Redevelopment Commission
 Mariah Bloom, Bloom Law Office, Prof. L.L.C.
 Shelby Boettner, Presentation College
 Andrew Borkowski, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC - Aberdeen
 Amanda Cook, US Bank
 Julia Coon, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
 Brittney Currence, New York Life Insurance Company - Brittney Currence, Agent
 Nick DeVine, Avera Medical Group
 Courtney Dosch, Lutheran Social Services
 Brady Fuhrman, Dagel, Jakober & Associates - Ameriprise Financial Services Inc
 Haley Grandpre, Dacotah Bank
 Diane Hansen, Quality Quick Print
 Sara Henry, JDH Construction Inc
 Tanner Jondahl, City of Aberdeen - Police Dept.
 Curry Kuehl, Dacotah Bank
 Kaitlyn Lundebrek, Aberdeen Family YMCA

J'aime Matthews, Aberdeen Housing Authority & Redevelopment Commission
 Kayla Mielitz, Finishing Touch Design Studio
 Tanner Myers, Agtegra Cooperative
 Becky Nelson, Northern State University
 Bradley Olson, Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
 Cynthia Peckham, Dacotah Bank
 Dawna Peterson, 3M Company
 Artena Thompson, Aberdeen Housing Authority & Redevelopment Commission
 Ellen Walstad, 3M Company
 Carly Wheeting, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC - Mina



2023

fun facts

- ▼ Republican Kevin McCarthy was finally selected Speaker of the House of Representative after 15 ballots, the most rounds of voting since 1860
- ▼ A 6-year-old in Newport, Virginia shot his teacher with his mom's gun
- ▼ The Mega Millions jackpot tipped over \$1 Billion
- ▼ Lakers LeBron James surpasses 38,000 NBA career points
- ▼ In January, America and Germany announce decision to send powerful battle tanks to Ukraine to fight Russian invasion
- ▼ At the 65th Grammy Awards, Beyonce breaks record for most wins with her 32nd Grammy
- ▼ The Kansas City Chiefs beat the Philadelphia Eagles 38-35 at Super Bowl LVII
- ▼ California's Silicon Valley Bank collapses after a sudden bank run and credit crisis resulting in the largest bank fall since 2008

**QUOTE BY
ALEXA SHELDON**
(class of 2023)

The Leadership Aberdeen program features incredible speakers covering important teachings and topics of discussion, behind-the-scenes tours of companies that few else will ever get to see, and most importantly, powerful ways to band together and give back to our community as leaders. I really appreciated getting to know my classmates; we formed genuine connections and a common purpose for our project's goal: Helping people in our community facing food insecurity. I feel so fortunate to have had this opportunity, and I would encourage any current or future leaders in Aberdeen to complete this program as it is truly valuable and rewarding!



2023 leadership aberdeen

In 2023, there were 29 class participants representing 21 different businesses. The class created the first Annual Aberdeen Burger Battle – Take a Bite Out of Hunger that ran during the month of April. There were 10 different competitors with the trophy going to: Three22 Kitchen + Cocktails, with the Bourbon Bacon Burger. Over 1100 people voted on the burgers. The class raised \$10,500 for the Aberdeen Salvation Army to use for food insecurity within the community. At the class graduation, Grace Chipman with the Aberdeen Convention and Visitors Bureau spoke on behalf of the class and Brandon Duxbury with the Dacotah Prairie Museum received the Dale Stein Leadership Through Service Award. 2023 Business Partners included: 3M Company, Agtegra Cooperative, Avera St. Luke's, Dacotah Bank, Demkota Ranch Beef, Glacial Lakes Energy, Northern State University, and Sanford Aberdeen.

Class participants were:

Taylor Armstrong, Dacotah Bank
 Mitchell Babcock, Helms & Associates
 Amy Bertsch, Avera St Luke's Hospital
 Tyler Bierman, City of Aberdeen - Parks, Recreation & Forestry
 Grace Chipman, Aberdeen Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Kaley Dick, Quality Quick Print
 Brandon Duxbury, Dacotah Prairie Museum
 Kyler Ell, Dacotah Bank
 Kendall Frahm, Agtegra Cooperative
 Abbie Franks, The Experience Real Estate Inc
 Jeffrey Garetson, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC - Mina
 John Gilleo, 3M Company
 Chad Hatzenbuehler, Plains Commerce Bank
 Quinn Kinser, 3M Company
 Desiree Kolb, Insurance Plus
 Andrew Kurtz, 3M Company
 Jordan McQuillen, City of Aberdeen - Finance Office
 Cassidy Moser, Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area

Melissa Nunez, Demkota Ranch Beef
 Cory Peterson, Midstates Inc
 Megan Pew, Quality Quick Print
 Jaida Sanderson, Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area
 Kendra Schwan, Dacotah Bank
 Dan Severson, Aberdeen Family YMCA
 Alexa Sheldon, Aberdeen Downtown Association
 Amanda Tarter, Twin City Fan Companies
 Alesha Thayer, Climate Control Inc
 Sadie VanderWal, Agtegra Cooperative
 Annika Walz, Farm Credit Services of America





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