Seizing the Moment

Education
Network
Service
Evaluation
Leadership
Contribution
Collaboration

2014 Annual Report
For every person in every organization, there comes a moment when he or she must have the courage to step forward and meet the needs of the time. Regardless of whether your time is now or in the future, you must be prepared and willing to seize that moment as a courageous leader!

This quote by David Cottrell, a respected voice in leadership training, frames the essential proposition of the LEAD Maryland leadership development program. Our mission is to prepare LEAD Fellows—regardless of where they are in their individual careers paths—to lead within our constituent groups and beyond. Our mission is to prepare leaders to serve the agriculture, rural, and natural resources communities; however, we see LEAD Fellows reaching beyond those defined target groups and into elected positions and leadership roles that have far broader reach.

I have heard countless leadership candidates tell me that they were concerned they were not ready to take on the mantle of leadership. Unfortunately it’s circumstances that dictate the moment when it’s time to take charge, find a solution, advocate for a position or in short become a leader. What we accomplish is to have these emerging leaders prepared when their time comes. And for most of them, their time comes during or immediately after finishing their LEAD Fellowship.

We are often asked if we (LEAD Maryland) are being effective or successful in our efforts and how do we know or measure our success? This is a question I love to answer. We are accomplishing our goals and are on mission. We know this because is a recent survey LEAD Fellow graduates have told us how valuable their training has been. But a more potent demonstration of our success is evident when you attend any function or event in the agriculture, rural or natural resources communities and you see the room filled with LEAD Fellows. Or if you attend a legislative hearing about an issue of importance to our communities and see the room filled with LEAD Fellows. These are the moments of leadership we prepare for.

As always we could not be accomplishing our goals or be on mission without the support of our generous sponsors. We wish to thank all sponsors big and small alike. Each contribution counts toward the success of our program and the continued success or our agricultural, rural and natural resources communities.

Ken Korando
President
LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.
In developing leadership for the future of Maryland agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities, the LEAD Maryland Foundation (LEAD) seeks to bring together a diverse mixture of fellows, representing many sectors of Maryland’s agriculture community, to create the ideal class. Likewise, LEAD reaches out to many different sources to assist in the program's funding. The board of directors and fellows heartily thank the program’s dedicated sponsors, grantors, and contributors. With tuition covering roughly twenty percent of a fellow’s participation cost, truly this program could not exist without the support of so many organizations and individuals.

From a funding point of view, LEAD’s 2014 statements remain consistent with years past. Variances occur in some program line items, for instance symposium and tuition income, based on the normal two-year cycle of the foundation. Likewise, on the expense side, the statements reflect a lower expense than last year due to no international travel.

The board, through its Funding and Finance Committee will continue to seek out new sources of funding, whilst building the relationships with LEAD’s current donors. New partnerships and relationships are being developed through efforts of board members, alums, and current fellows, via development of their class project, the Image of Agriculture Symposium.

We look forward to 2015 with an exciting international trip to South Africa for the Class VIII fellows, while we welcome in the new fellows of Class IX (2015-16).
In Kind Gifts are important to the LEAD Maryland Foundation. We especially thank the following for Noncash Charitable Gifts, July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014:

- AgFirst Farm Credit Bank
- Blackwater Wildlife Refuge
- DuPont, Chesapeake Farms
- Chesapeake Gold Oysters
- Cricket Goodall - Maryland Horse Breeders Association
- Edwin Remsberg Photographs
- Garrett Luthy and Family
- Greenbriar Farms/Danny Luthy
- Harper Farm/Jim Harper
- Jason Scott
- Layton’s Chance Vineyards and Winery at Lazy Day Farms
- Mark Ebespacher (spelling to be confirmed)
- Maryland Cattlemen’s Association
- Maryland Dairy Industry Association
- Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association
- Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Maryland Farm Bureau
- Maryland Million Ltd.
- Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc.
- R & W Farms/Wendell Meekins
- Richardson Farm Market
- Rural Maryland Council
- University of Maryland Extension
- University of Maryland Extension Aquaculture Program
- University of Maryland Wye Research and Education Center

Many people—serving as volunteers, program alumni, or representing other organizations, government offices, businesses, or employers—made significant gifts of time, travel, speaking, teaching, presentations, planning, leading tours, hosting, and otherwise adding value to LEAD’s educational programming and to the organization’s volunteer committees and board. If you have given your time and services, we appreciate these precious gifts, too!

Thank you to the many people, employers, organizations, and family members who have invested into the success of the LEAD Fellows by providing scholarships or otherwise assisting with paying program participation fees (tuition). Though payments of the fees are the responsibilities of the Fellows and cannot be recognized as charitable contributions, your support is important and appreciated!

Our apologies if any donations have been inadvertently overlooked. Please bring correction or additions to our attention. Thank you.
LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.

Board Members  (June 30, 2014)

James R. Boyle  Farm Owner/Operator  
Bill Brown  Poultry Extension Agent, University of Delaware; Farmer; Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.  
Valerie Connelly  Executive Director, Maryland Farm Bureau  
Colby Ferguson  Director Governmental Relations, Maryland Farm Bureau  
Vanessa A. Finney, CPA  Executive Director: Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association; Maryland Arborist Association; Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS); Maryland Forests Association Inc.; and President, Quercus, Inc.  
Kurt H. Fuchs  Government Affairs Officer, MidAtlantic Farm Credit  
Earl F. “Buddy” Hance  Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Ken Korando  Owner, Solomons Island Winery  
Patricia Langenfelder  Grand View Farm, LLC  
Stephen R. McHenry  Executive Director, Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)  
R. David Myers  Acting Assistant Director and Agriculture Program Leader, Extension Educator, Agriculture, University of Maryland Extension  
Jason Scott  Walnut Hill Farms and Scott’s Seed, LLC  
C. John Sullivan III  Deputy Chief of Staff, Harford County Executive’s Office; Harford County Division of Agricultural Affairs  
Emily Wilson  Director of Land Acquisition and Planning, Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Lisa Winters  University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener  

Faculty and Staff

Susan R. Harrison  Executive Director, LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.; and Associate Agent, University of Maryland Extension  
Debbie Stanley  Program Director, LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.; and Faculty Extension Assistant, University of Maryland Extension  
Debby Dant  Administrative Assistant, LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. and University of Maryland Extension

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