



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

65 Newly Elected Officials Set to 'Graduate' from the Newly Elected Officials Course

Dinner and Awards Ceremony Scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010; Keynote Speaker Colonel Michael P. Crall of the US Army Corps of Engineers will Address the Graduates

Pittsburgh, PA---- On March 25, the Local Government Academy will congratulate 65 newly elected officials from seven southwestern Pennsylvania counties on their successful completion of the Newly Elected Officials Course.

Since November 21, 2009, this group of elected officials has completed more than 40 hours of intensive instruction in 10 sessions, covering a variety of topics relevant to governing at the local level. These individuals have received a base of knowledge that will help prepare them for their term in office.

"These graduates have made a significant time commitment over the past four months. This time invested at the beginning of their term will save their communities time and money by reducing on-the-job training throughout their years in local office," said Executive Director Susan Hockenberry.

A complete list of graduates, and the communities they represent, can be found at www.localgovernmentacademy.org.

To recognize these officials and their commitment to pursuing excellence in local government, Colonel Michael P. Crall of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will address those who completed the Full 10-Course Certificate Program. Colonel Crall has dedicated his 25-year career to public service through engineering, both at home and abroad.

"During my time as district engineer, I've explored and experienced Western Pennsylvania's diverse, complicated and somewhat fragmented political landscape. Today's

leaders must actively engage with a multitude of stakeholders and political entities to leverage resources, build effective networks and define the pressing issues that face this blossoming region. It is my great honor to give this address to those who will lead Western Pennsylvania into a new era of prosperity and opportunity," Colonel Crall said.

The Newly Elected Officials Course included 19 offerings throughout Allegheny, Butler and Westmoreland Counties. In addition to four all-day Saturday sessions, participants also completed six weeknight courses. Forty individuals from academic, government, private and non-profit institutions donated instruction and expertise for the Newly Elected Officials Course. Corporate donors, or *Advocates for Good Government*, provide further financial and technical support.

This year's class includes a diverse group of elected officials from communities throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. The course is largely bipartisan, with nearly 59 percent Democratic, 34 percent Republican and 5 percent Independent enrollment. Additionally, 34 percent of this year's participants are female, 54 percent possess a bachelor's degree or higher and 43 percent have management or professional occupations.

These newly elected officials have a significant impact on local government in Pennsylvania as they are responsible for annual combined expenditures of approximately \$743 million and serve a population of nearly 846,000 residents. Communities of all sizes are represented in the Newly Elected Officials Course – from the City of Pittsburgh, to the large, suburban municipalities of Mt. Lebanon, Monroeville and Cranberry Township, and the smaller, rural municipalities of Franklin Township, Houston Borough and New Stanton Borough – and are all pursuing the goal of excellence in local government.

Held every other year following the General Election, the course is designed to promote "good government" by preparing newly elected officials to deal with both the technical and policy-making aspects of leading at the local level. More than 600 officials in southwestern Pennsylvania have participated in this award-winning programming throughout its 26 year history.

Local Government Academy (LGA) is a collaborative effort of business, government, education and civic leaders promoting excellence in government through education. As a nonprofit organization specializing in programs for municipal elected officials and employees promoting economic development and revitalization, environmental quality and intergovernmental cooperation, Local Government Academy has been in existence for 26 years, and serves the 10 county region of Southwestern Pennsylvania.