



**PRESS RELEASE**

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TO: *Local Newspaper Editors*  
FOR: **ROP WITH PICTURE**  
FROM: Suzanne Pletcher, Leadership Mendocino (707) 463-6967;  
LM@pacific.net  
DATE: Sept. 8, 2008  
RE: Leadership Mendocino Receives Cowell Foundation Scholarship Award

## **Leadership Mendocino Receives \$25,000 Scholarship Grant from S.H. Cowell Foundation**

UKIAH, CA—With a \$25,000 grant for scholarships from the S.H. Cowell Foundation, the Leadership Mendocino program has become more accessible to community-minded residents of Mendocino County.

“We’re thrilled and grateful,” said Suzanne Pletcher, executive director. “This two-year grant helps us to attract and accommodate qualified applicants from a cross-section of the population in our communities.

Participants in the Leadership Mendocino program gather monthly throughout our rural county to learn about issues of importance in Mendocino County. A key benefit of participation is networking: the opportunity to meet with community leaders and other people who have diverse interests and expertise. Participants learn through presentations, projects, field trips and open discussions.

“There are emerging leaders in Mendocino County among all age groups, cultures and walks of life,” said Pletcher. “They come from business, non-profit and public sectors.”

The \$900 tuition for the nine-month leadership program covers a two-day retreat and eight full class days held each year from September through May. Scholarships may pay up to \$800 of tuition.

“Scholarships will be valuable to those who are on a leadership track but for whatever reason cannot afford the full Leadership Mendocino tuition,” said Kathy Lehner, president of the Foundation for Commerce and Education, parent organization of Leadership Mendocino and an alumna of the Leadership Mendocino program. Lehner is also president of Mendocino College in Ukiah.

Leadership Mendocino was organized in 1992 in response to a growing concern about the need to identify, train and mentor community members for future leadership. More than 375 people have graduated from the program, and most of those who remain in the area serve in a wide variety of leadership positions.

The program is largely community-sponsored. “We are fortunate to have long-term alumni, individual and business champions from throughout the County who feel that a leadership development program is important,” said Pletcher. “Their support is a gift to our communities.” Graduates of the non-profit program work through business, government and non-profit organizations, often in partnership, to make their community a better place to live.

We are “very pleased” to approve the grant, said Lise Maisano, Vice President of Grant Programs at the S.H. Cowell Foundation. The Cowell grant also provides for outreach and executive director training.

Leadership Mendocino’s mission is to support our Mendocino County communities by developing a diverse group of people who will get involved and make a difference. For more information, visit [www.leadershipmendocino.org](http://www.leadershipmendocino.org) or call (707) 463-6967.



***Picture caption:*** left to right, Rod Logan, Bert Mosier, Jennifer Seward of Ukiah Foundation; Carolyn Welch of Leadership Mendocino (LM) steering committee; Kathi Groth, president of LM steering committee; Suzanne Pletcher, LM executive director, and Kathy Lehner, president of the Ukiah Foundation.