



PRESS RELEASE

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FROM: Suzanne Pletcher, Leadership Mendocino (707) 463-6967;
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DATE: June 4, 2008
RE: Leadership Mendocino Class XV Graduates

25 People Graduate from Leadership Mendocino Program

UKIAH, CA—Twenty-five residents of Mendocino County graduated from the nine-month Leadership Mendocino program in a public ceremony with 180 people attending that was held at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center on May 30. The graduation ceremony included presentations of the two class projects—youth mentoring and tips for resource conservation and reduced use of plastics.

“Those in class XV are to be congratulated for their major accomplishment in completing the nine-month program and for completing meaningful and worthwhile class projects that benefit the communities of Mendocino County,” said Suzanne Pletcher, executive director. “These folks are wonderful, talented and committed individuals. Mendocino County is fortunate to have people of this caliber living here, working here and making a difference here.”

Participants in Class XV are from throughout the County, including Covelo, Ft. Bragg, Willits and Ukiah.

Once a month for the past year, graduates gathered monthly to learn about issues important to Mendocino County and to meet with community leaders who are tackling those issues. They learned through lectures, projects, field trips, skills development and open discussions with people who have diverse viewpoints.

Graduates attended day-long conferences focusing upon agriculture, health, government, education, natural resources and other issues. They also completed two community projects focused upon youth mentoring and resource conservation.

“It is important to acknowledge the involvement, coaching and financial support of more than 150 community leaders from throughout the County during this past year,” said Pletcher. “With their active support, this community-based leadership program is thriving.”

For more information, please visit www.leadershipmendocino.org or call (707) 463-6967.



Photo Caption:

Leadership Mendocino Class XV Graduates, first row, l to r:

Brian Yopez, housing commissioner, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians; Justin Ebert, physician’s assistant at Mendocino Community Health Clinic (MCHC); Jody Cole, owner, Wild Rainbow African Safaris; Julia Conway, entrepreneur and culinary advocate for Stella Cadente Olive Oil Company; Delyne Rogers, dental hygienist, active in community organizations; Susan Plummer, hospice program director, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital; Nancy Atkinson, engineer, City of Ft. Bragg; Christa Nunez, television advertising manager for Comcast Spotlight; Amy

Rohrbough, support service supervisor for Mendo-Lake Credit Union; Jendi Coursey, director of marketing and communications at Ukiah Valley Medical Center (UVMC). *Back row, l to r:* Mary Misseldine, dental hygienist, active in community organizations; Mark Turner, director of information technology at UVMC; Neil Davis, clinical nurse supervisor, intensive care, UVMC, and president, Ukiah Valley Trail Group; Pam Jensen, executive director of Ukiah Valley Assoc. for Habilitation; Don Ballek, executive director, Economic Development and Finance Corporation; MaryAnn Gonzalez, dentist and dental director, Consolidated Tribal Health Project; Terry Burns, CEO, UVMC; Lisa Kelly, director of Dominican University of California, Ukiah center; Jones Lee, quality technicians at Fetzer Vineyards; Sandra Liston, attorney working with Access Design Build in Ukiah; Jona Saxby, family law attorney with law office of G. Scott Gaustad; and Scott Cratty, telecommunications consultant and Ukiah Farmers' Market manager. Not pictured: Graduates Jean Jahr, retired, president of Round Valley Unified School District, Covelo; Jill Miller, business assistant, Redwood Empire Fair; and Dennis Slota, hydrologist with the county water agency.