

Gunnison Valley Leadership Program Now Accepting Nominations for Tenth Class

The Gunnison Valley Leadership Program (GVLP) is now accepting nominations for prospective members for its 2009 class. The class will meet over a nine month period from September 2009- May 2010. The GVLP offers individuals with community leadership potential the opportunity to develop knowledge and sharpen leadership skills through a series of sessions focusing on issues affecting the Gunnison Valley. It exposes participants to the past, present and future of the area by combining presentations from current leaders, tours, panel discussions, simulated problem solving, and dialogue between class members and community decision maker's valley wide. The goal of the program is for participants to become aware of the challenges facing the communities in our area, identify and develop personal leadership style, observe other paradigms of leadership and how to work best with those styles, in addition to inspiring participants to provide necessary leadership in the future.

The GVLP is an intensive program with a small group of approximately 12-16 participants. It requires a strong commitment by each class member. The program begins with a one and a half day retreat in mid-September and runs one day a month, October through May. The March session is an overnight trip to Denver to visit the legislature and speak with the elected officials who represent this valley. Each year the participants develop and carry out a project designed to benefit the community, as well as put into action some of the leadership skills and concepts presented in the program.

The class is open to residents of Gunnison, Hinsdale, and western Saguache counties and will be selected and notified. Participants will express a sincere desire and motivation to serve their community, demonstrate interest in seeking community leadership roles, willing to make the time commitment to participate in all sessions and class project. The group thrives best when each participant is fully and honestly committed to the program.

The tuition cost for the GVLP is \$650.00 and is set by the steering committee at the conclusion of the current year's program. It covers all meals, breaks, travel beyond the valley, materials, supplies, and overnight accommodations, when applicable. The tuition can be paid by the participants themselves, an employer, an organization, or a combination. Scholarship support, which applicants are encouraged to apply for, is available and payment plans can be arranged. Individuals may nominate themselves or may be nominated by a business, an organization, or any resident of the valley.

The deadline for receipt of nominations for this fall class is July 15, 2009. If you would like more information or wish to nominate someone for the program, please contact the Gunnison Area Chamber of Commerce for an application form.