

LEAD Announces IMPACT San Diego Class of 2010 Community Support Ensures Diverse, Engaged Class

September 15, 2009 (San Diego) - LEAD San Diego has been identifying, preparing, connecting and supporting San Diego's current and future leaders since 1981. On September 17, after a competitive selection process designed to ensure diversity and balanced educational opportunities, a new class of 54 enthusiastic individuals began IMPACT San Diego, LEAD'S signature 10 month community leadership program, often referred as a "Master's Degree" on the San Diego region.

According to President and CEO **Judy Forrester**, the rigorous and thoughtful selection process ensures that the class represents diversity in age, backgrounds, careers and demographics. According to Forrester, it is this diversity that leads to healthy and informative dialogue for all and furthers LEAD's strategic goal of advancing the quality of life of the San Diego region through a growing network of capable, and engaged civic leaders.

"In this challenging economy, LEAD is especially grateful for the corporate support, scholarships and grants which will provide opportunities for passionate future leaders who might not be able to participate in this valuable program due to recent budget cutbacks. This support emphasizes the tremendous value that the San Diego community places on the LEAD program. Upon graduation from the program, class members will help the community in their own individual ways, working as volunteers and serving on boards and commissions," said Forrester.

AT&T LEADS THE WAY AS TITLE SPONSOR

Through a grant of scholarship and curriculum support, AT&T will be title sponsor for the **2009-10 IMPACT San Diego Curriculum Series**. **AT&T** will also provide \$10,000 in scholarship funding to assist emerging women and minority leaders.

"By stepping forward in this significant and visible way, **AT&T** is able to demonstrate our commitment to the future of San Diego and its leadership," said LEAD Board Chair Mark Leslie, AT&T Vice-President, External Affairs. "LEAD has a reputation for making things happen and AT&T supports their commitment to community service and the work they do to strengthen San Diego as a region. By developing leaders who understand and are integrated into the fabric of our community, we all benefit."

Other scholarship funding has been provided the **Fieldstone Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank, The San Diego Union-Tribune, The Legler Benbough Foundation, OliverMcMillan** and the **IMPACT SAN DIEGO Class of 2009**. These partners and supporters understand and embrace LEAD's mission and offer support that ensures our ability to offer our cutting-edge curriculum, programming and events.

SEMINAR SERIES SPONSOR UNION-TRIBUNE CONTINUES TO CULTIVATE EMERGING LEADERS

Another community leader who has long acknowledged the need to cultivate young and diverse leadership is **The San Diego Union-Tribune, IMPACT San Diego's Seminar Series Sponsor**. Established in 2002, the **Emerging Leaders Grant** recipients are selected based on the energy, potential value and dedication they bring to community leadership in the region.

According to **Drew Schlosberg**, Community and Public Relations Director for *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, "We continue our commitment to addressing the needs of our changing region. By encouraging the development of leaders from diverse communities, we support a wide range of voices and influences on decision making regarding San Diego's future."

The scholar receiving the **San Diego Union-Tribune Emerging Leaders Grant** for 2010 is: **Tenille Otero**, San Diego County Water Authority.



LEAD ALUMNI DO THEIR PART



Established by the LEAD Class of 2008, the **LEAD Class of 2009 Alumni Scholarship** is presented annually by the recent graduating class to a member of the incoming class who best demonstrates a commitment to leadership in San Diego's non-profit or government sector. It symbolizes and celebrates the passing of the torch from Graduate to Class member. The scholarship supports the continued development of extraordinary leaders to serve San Diego's vital non-profit community.

The scholar receiving the Class of 2009 Alumni Scholarship is: Otto Sanchez Cocino, MAAC Project.