



Annual Alumni Newsletter



Dear Grads of the Best Class(es) Ever,

After a year unlike any other, Leadership Lancaster still believes in the power of community leadership!

Much like your organization, we've pivoted, socially distanced, zoomed, and masked. Despite it all, we still delivered the Leadership Lancaster experience to participants of the 2021 Core Class, the Thaddeus Stevens College Core Class, the Neighborhood Leaders Academy in partnership with the City of Lancaster, to ten nonprofit Boards of Directors, during a virtual Leadership Advantage, and to TWO Executive Classes!

Hundreds of local leaders completed Leadership Lancaster programming last year and are now better connected, educated, and inspired to lead our community, joining you in the ranks of alumni.

Not only that, but we watched you, our grads, continue to lead through the challenges of the past year. Thank you for guiding our community through tumultuous times. We can't wait to reconnect with you in person, and we hope you enjoy catching up with your peers in our alumni newsletter!

All our best,
The LL Team

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Photo Credit: Suzette Wenger, LNP Newspaper



Welcome to the alumni network

From the Fall of 2020 to the Spring of 2021 we had the opportunity to meet and graduate over 100 existing and emerging leaders here in Lancaster County. We are proud to add these grads to our growing network of over 3,000 community leaders doing good in Lancaster County.

Pictured from left to right and top to bottom, the Fall Executive Class, Spring Executive Class, Core Class 2021, LaRock Hudson who is one of over twenty graduates from the City of Lancaster's Neighborhood Leaders Academy, and the Thaddeus Stevens College Core Class.

To our grads, congratulations! We cannot wait to see the incredible ways you will lead in our community.

Visit our website to learn more!



Alumni by the Decade

Catch up on some updates from your fellow best class ever alumni.

Executive Class

Jill Sebest Welch, Executive 2008, was named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer.

Pedro Rivera, Executive 2009, joined the Lancaster County Community Foundation Board.

Paige McFarling, Executive 2010, was named the new Executive Director at Lancaster Food Hub.

Larry Cohen, Executive 2012, wrote his first book, *The Quirky World of Parking*.

Tad Renner, Executive 2012, was promoted to Senior Managing Director at the High Center.

Fern Dannis, Executive 2015, was selected as the artist for the Bloomberg-funded Cabbage Hill public art project.

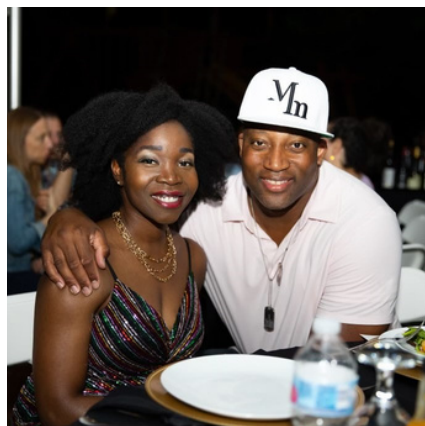
Greg Orth, Executive 2015, made the final winners list in Central Pennsylvania Business Journal's 2021 Reader's Rankings in two categories: Executive Coach and Management & Coaching Consultants.

Deborah Barber, Executive 2017, became General Manager of Account Management for ATOMIC.

Mike Shirk, Executive 2017, was named to Central Business Journal's Power 30.

Rahwa Teklai, Executive 2019, was promoted to Wealth Director at PNC Bank.

Kevin Ressler, Executive 2020, joined the Landis Quality Living Board.



Dr. Cherise Hamblin and Shaun Murphy, Executive 2012

Health Equity NOW!!! was a COVID vaccination campaign targeting the City of Lancaster, spearheaded by Dr. Cherise Hamblin's Patients-R-Waiting (PRW). The focus of the campaign was to advance health equity by promoting and delivering protection from COVID-19 in places and to people who have been most affected by the pandemic, under-protected, and over-exposed. This 10-week campaign worked to distribute and encourage vaccination in Lancaster City through PRW and in collaboration with churches, community centers, and Lancaster's federally qualified health center, Union Community Care. This endeavor mobilized local physicians, students, youth, volunteers, local businesses and nonprofits.

Dr. Hamblin says, "Making people feel comfortable to ask questions and gather information is paramount in addressing the vaccine inquisitive. We always have music and fresh produce for anyone coming by. The pandemic has been hard on everyone and we want to be part of providing relief." To read more about the work of PRW and the vaccine clinic visit www.healthequitylanaster.org.



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PRW is an initiative dedicated to eliminating health disparities by increasing diversity in medicine, founded by Dr. Hamblin. The organization's three areas of focus are increasing the pipeline of minority clinicians, making the pipeline of minority clinicians less leaky and supporting minority clinicians in practice. Over the last year, PRW has facilitated a health equity book club called, "What the Health?". Launched in June 2020, as a response to the pandemic and the public health crisis that is racism, the book club brought together people from all walks of life across the county to discuss health equity. To celebrate the club's anniversary, Harriet Washington, author of *Medical Apartheid*, visited Lancaster for a meet-and-greet with the club. Dr. Hamblin highly recommends *Medical Apartheid* as an essential read for health professionals. To learn more about "What the Health?" and to read about the other featured books from last year, visit www.patientsrwaiting.com.



80's

Ed Gordon, Core 1987, retired from Wohlsen Construction Company after 28 years.

Barbara Gallen, Core 1988, has re-invented her consulting practice to focus on coaching individuals, leaders, and teams.

Andre W. Renna, Core 1987

In July 2017, Renna retired from his full time career in health care administration to spend time with his grandchildren, two-year-old Aria and newborn Aiden. The more time Renna spent with Aria it became clear that she was very creative, expressive, and quite a storyteller. During one of their chats, Aria explained that she was planning a surprise part for Ducky, her "best friend," whom she won at a boardwalk game at the beach. Renna thought, this would make a wonderful children's book. So, he decided to write "The

Adventures of Aria and Ducky: The Surprise Birthday Party." Renna is already working on developing the book into a series of adventures and has started to draft his second book.

Renna never imagined that writing children's books would become a passion. However, he says, "with Aria as my inspiration and the great opportunity this affords a grandparent to spend quality time with their grandchild, the joy and rewards are endless."

"The Adventures of Aria and Ducky: The Surprise Birthday Party" is written by Andre W. Renna and illustrated by David Leonard. To get your copy, visit www.ariaandducky.com or reach out directly to Renna directly at awrenna@comcast.net.



90's

Daniel Betancourt, Core 1997, led the merger of Community First Fund and FINANTA, a Philadelphia-based CDFI, to be a larger entity that now allows them to have a greater impact and drive change.

Jennifer Craighead Carey, Core 1996, was named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer.

Ray D'Agostino, Core 1999, was elected Lancaster County Commissioner in January 2020.

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself
in the service of others.*



Trudy Brandt, Core 1997

While going back to college in her 40's to obtain her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in social work, Trudy Brandt continuously served a range of human services in Lancaster County. She spent nearly 20 years directing the New Choices program at the YWCA Lancaster which supports single mothers as they achieve self-sufficiency, finish school, and become financially independent. In her spare time, outside of work and school, Brandt could be found volunteering at the Hospice of Lancaster County.

While the pandemic put a pause on her most recent volunteer endeavors, with The Schreiber Center for Pediatric Development and at Buchanan Elementary, Brandt continues to assert a spirit of optimism and service. Reflecting on all her volunteer experiences, she believes, "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. It is very rewarding work and I hope to go back when volunteers are allowed again."

*Do you have a life update to share?
Email ll@leadershiplancaster.org to be featured in our next newsletter!*

00's

Jay Laser, Core 2002, was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Grotto Association.

William Musante, Core 2004, was promoted to CFO at Sylvin Technologies.

John H. May, Core 2005, became Partner of the newly merged firm of May Herr & Grosh, LLP.

Kelly Cartwright, Core 2006, began a new position as superintendent of Dover Area School District.

Andrea Schmid, Core 2008, started a new job as Vice President Sales Manager, Huntington Asset Finance at Huntington National Bank.

Chris Venarchick, Core 2008, and **Craig Smith, Core 2009**, joined the Leadership Team at RGS Associates.

Denise Elliot, Core 2009, won the Unsung Hero Award at the Legal Intelligencer's 2021 PA Legal Awards.

Willonda McCloud, Core 2009, became chair of the Lancaster County STEM Alliance and joined the Board at Landis Homes and Community Based Services.

Theresa Mongiovi, Core 2009, joined Post & Schell, P.C. as the Employment and Labor Law Principal and joined the Lancaster County Community Foundation Board.

Jody Valenzo, Core 2009, started a new position as Director of Administration at The Witmer Group.



Bill Zee, Core 2009

In August 2020, Education Law Group Chair and Partner, William J. Zee, moved his practice group to Appel, Yost & Zee LLP. The change allowed Zee and his team members to grow and flourish in the constantly evolving education law field. Through his advocacy for students, Zee is changing the minds of policy makers, administrators, and society about the impact of complex childhood trauma on behavioral and academic performance in schools.

Stemming from his own experience as an educator and recognition that trauma is often at the root of problems many students encounter in school, Zee is bringing awareness to the public health issue of generational trauma. His efforts are focused to ensure childhood trauma does not limit life opportunities for students and to promote resilience through educational policy initiatives. Zee's primary goal is to work within the educational and legal systems to help young people receive the support they need.

Zee was named one of American Lawyer's 2021 Northeast United States Trailblazers. This inaugural honor from American Lawyer highlights lawyers in the Northeast United States who are serving as agents of change in the legal industry. To be named a "Trailblazer," a lawyer must make significant strides in the practice, policy or technological advancement of their area of law. Zee's work has had a significant impact on education law through nationwide advocacy efforts, the development of trauma-informed policies, and support services for children in public school.

10's

Ken Keifer, Core 2010, retired from Smucker Laser Cutting and Metal Fabrication.

Alexander Piehl, Core 2010, joined the Leadership Team at RGS Associates.

Courtney Lewis, Core 2011, started a new job at Community Boost Consulting.

Angela Sanders, Core 2011, joined Post & Schell, P.C. as the Employment and Labor Law Principal.

Todd Umstead, Core 2013, retired from the Lancaster City Police after 28 years of service.

Ada Rivera, Core 2013, opened her own Real Estate Firm, Home 1st Realty, in Southeast Lancaster.

Gina Breslin, Core 2014, **Sarah Bruton, Core 2017**, and **Kathy Gutierrez, Core 2019**, were all named CPBJ Women of Influence for 2021.

Guy Kingree, Core 2014, was joined the La Academia Board of Directors.

David Walker, Core 2014, named a Super Lawyer, part of Thomson Reuters 2021 Rising Star, was named partner at Appel, Yost, and Zee, and joined the Leadership Lancaster Board of Directors.

Katie Sandoe, Core 2014, launched her own business consulting company, Kathryn Sandoe LLC.

Sarah Billings, Core 2015, was named the new Director of Operations at Bench Mark Program.

Megan Demarra, Core 2015, was promoted to Senior Associate Director, Campaign and Strategic Initiatives at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

Dana Panagopoulos, Core 2016, was named partners at Appel, Yost, and Zee LLP.
Erin Sell, Core 2016, welcomed baby Colin in July 2021.
Chris Boyd, Core 2017, was elected Vice President of the La Academia Board of Directors.
Carla Dewald, Core 2017, was named interim deputy director of Vaccinate Lancaster.
Matt Grosh, Core 2017, became Partner of the newly merged firm May Herr & Grosh, LLP.
Ramsey Sybel, Core 2017, and **Ryan Tiburtini, Core 2019**, placed 13th and 14th in the Iron Man 70.3, both qualifying for the World's in Utah. Sybel also qualified for the Iron Man World Championship in Kona.
Colleen Wagner, Core 2017, was elected President of the La Academia Board of Directors.
Peter Faben, Core 2018, was named partner at Barley Snyder.
Stephanie Gromek, Core 2018, was promoted to Associate Director for Resource Generation, Institutional Giving at Church World Services headquarters.
Kim Lyons, Core 2018, and **Rebecca Walck, Core 2016**, were named partners at Simon Lever.
Adam Montpetit, Core 2018, joined Warwick Education Foundation Board.
Mustafa Nuur, Core 2018 became an American Citizen.
Lindsey Cook, Core 2019, joined the board of Childcare Consultants.
Kathy Gutierrez, Core 2019, joined the CASA Lancaster Board.
Erica Miller, Core 2019, started new job as a Talent Acquisition Program Manager at Infor.
Loaida Rodriguez, Core 2019, joined HDC MidAtlantic Board.
Brad Shulenberger, Core 2019, was promoted to VP of Construction Services at Warfel Construction.
Jeremy Young, Core 2019, was promoted to Director of Community and Economic Development at the Lancaster City Alliance.



Ryan Neff, Core 2015

Ryan Ashley Neff, Core Class of 2015 graduate, is an associate professor at HACC. After the Student Government Association conducted a college-wide survey, Neff earned the Professor of the Year award. As one student commented, "Thanks for making me a better student. My grades are the result of your professionalism, abundant knowledge, and clear directions."

Neff has fond memories of Leadership Lancaster and often references the experience while teaching his management courses (e.g. DiSC assessment, company tours, community action teams, nominal group technique, leadership, and more).

20's

Jimmy Csoka, Core 2020, started a new job as a Banker with PNC Bank.
Mary Fair, Core 2020, started her new job as HR Team Advisor at TAIT.
Alex Plantive, Core 2020, became an American Citizen.
Kaci Roberts, Core 2020, started a new position as Senior Executive Administrator at Steinman Communications.
Ezra Rothman, Core 2020, was promoted to Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships at EDC.
Kristen Simon, Core 2020, joined the Board at the Lancaster Science Factory.
Brandon Wilt, Core 2020, started new job as Vice President, Commercial Banker at Orrstown Bank.
Corbin Beittel, Core 2021, was promoted to Project Manager at Warfel Construction.
Jennifer DeWalt, Core 2021, joined the Leadership Lancaster Board of Directors.
Jennifer Santiago, Core 2021, was promoted to Resident Services Supervisor at HDC Mid-Atlantic and joined the Leadership Lancaster Board of Directors.
LaRock Hudson, NLA 2021, was named the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the City of Lancaster.
Sammi Rosa, NLA 2021, joined the Patients R Waiting team.

Rebecca Carroll Baltozer, Core 2019

For her Core Class 2019's Public Policy Day homework assignment, Rebecca Carroll Baltozer attended a zoning meeting and, much to her surprise, she had a life changing experience. The impact of the zoning meeting, closely followed by Public Policy Day, inspired a passion for local politics that would later lead to a run for public office.



You are to deliver on the promise of a better tomorrow

She remembers, "both events made me open my eyes to the community from a political view and understand that the decisions made in local government can affect our future for years to come. I remember hearing the statement 'you are to deliver on the promise of a better tomorrow' and feeling a calling." That is when she knew it was time to get involved and become more knowledgeable about what was happening at the local government level.

As she attended hearings about parks, land development, and other meetings affecting the future of the community, she became eager to become an agent of change. Baltozer decided to run as a write-in candidate in April of 2019 for a borough council seat. With the support of

others, she campaigned and won the seat starting in 2020. As she takes on her new leadership position, she believes, "it is imperative to me that I live the values I believe in, and deliver the results for the people of my community."



Ambassadors

Looking for the next get-together with your best class or decade ever? Have an idea for a gathering? Contact your Decade or Class Ambassador below or join us at our next event!

Executive Class Ambassador

Greg Orth
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80's Decade Ambassador

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90's Decade Ambassadors

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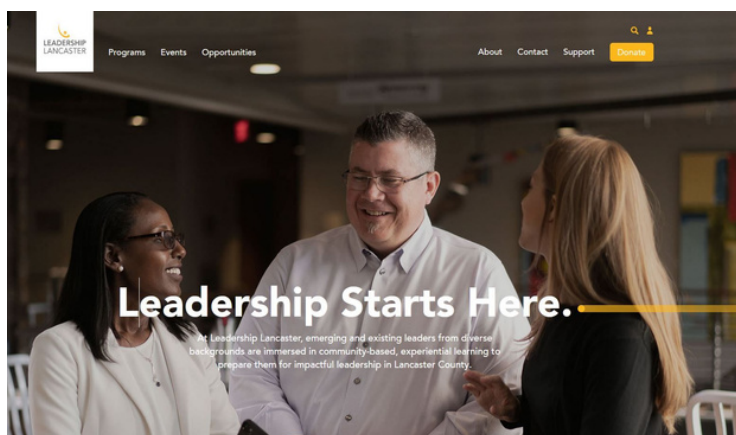
2020 Ambassador

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2021 Ambassador

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We have a new website!



Find open board seats,
reconnect on the portal,
and stay up to date on the
Leadership Lancaster
latest at
leadershiplancaster.org