

**Washington County Leadership Institute**  
2007 - Lambda Class  
April, 2007

Greetings Fellow Mainers:

We are a group of leaders and aspiring leaders who live and work in Washington County and we know that we can play an integral part in the overall prosperity of the great state of Maine. Washington County is rich in the area of entrepreneurship and innovation as shown in our high number of micro and small businesses. We are rich in natural beauty as shown in our growing eco-economy. We are rich in ways that much of the rest of the nation seeks—authenticity, strong work ethic, clean air and water, abundant natural resources, and a willingness to engage in work that combines both brain and brawn. We intend to accept our leadership roles to advance Washington County as a Quality Place intent on developing our infrastructure, educational offerings, marketing and export efforts, renewable energy independence, health care options, natural resources, and taxation policies to achieve sustainable prosperity.

As members of the 2007 Lambda Class (the 11th class) of the Washington County Leadership Institute, we just completed our four month study of personal, professional and public leadership. Between January and April, each WCLI class annually meets for 9 days, traveling to different locations within Washington County for each class meeting. Networking, skill development, visioning, and study of economic-political-cultural-and social opportunities in our shared communities is at the heart of our work.

One of the specific collaborative assignments the class had this year was the study of 5 recent statewide or countywide studies. Destiny 2010, Fermata, Longwoods, Flanagan and Brookings studies were included in this assignment. One goal of the assignment was to ascertain which subjects/issues relating to Washington County were present in all, or some, of the reports.

A second goal was to collect action-oriented evidence and details from the reports about any subjects/issues noted. Third, the goal was to express the findings in ways to be shared with the Governor's office, the Commissioners of the State Planning Office and the Department of Economic and Community Development, and state legislators assigned to specific committees.

Ultimately, the goal of utilizing data contained in the reports as the foundation for taking a more proactive approach in dealing with opportunities and challenges contained in the reports is the desired outcome of our efforts. As one team working on the assignment expressed, "The time for study is complete, it is now time to initiate and support specific and effective actions."

Here is a brief summary of areas we look forward to working on with other state leaders:

**Leadership Actions:**

Launch a leadership effort to set a statewide vision, establish values, set goals, and make action plans to create sustainable prosperity for the entire state.

Support local leadership development as a way to create positive changes from within, utilize

grassroots wisdom, and gain including a variety of voices and ideas.  
Support and expand programs which create and enrich youth opportunities.

**Critical Infrastructure:**

Improve Route 1 and 1A, add truck lanes and rest areas.  
Move forward on regional airport development.  
Fast-track development of statewide broadband access

**Educational offerings:**

Increase support to enhance UMM, WCCC, and Maine's Marine Technology Center.  
Support development of alternative education, innovation centers, and arts based seminars, retreats, workshops and symposia.  
Support infant and child educational opportunities.

**Diversified economy:**

Capitalize on boat building and repair/restoration opportunities.  
Intensify efforts in agriculture and aquaculture development.  
Explore a variety of renewable energy development potentials.  
Support fishery recovery, including research and development efforts.  
Promote the value, respect and economic worth of seasonal work.  
Recruit industry that is economically strong and also environmentally friendly.

**Marketing and Export Access:**

Accept that Maine *is* a brand, cease chasing a new brand - build on **Maine**.  
Provide a slogan that all counties can connect to in their marketing.  
Improve accessibility ease to the whole state via marketing information and signage.  
Promote eco tourism, nature tourism, heritage tourism, cultural tourism.  
Innovate ways to provide value added potential to existing products.  
Develop skills for ebusiness expansion to worldwide markets.

**Taxation management:**

Create formulas that retain and attract businesses.  
Adopt formulas that allow multi-generational families to maintain their homes.  
Legislate formulas that provide incentives for protecting the environment.  
Design formulas that provide cost effective operation of public facilities while retaining valuable local participation and community commitment.

One of the quotations that our group especially liked is a little known Martin Luther King piece of wisdom: "You cannot drive out negativity, ill will, trouble. You can only crowd it out by bringing in so much good that there simply is no place and no space for negativity, ill will or trouble to exist." That is exactly what we intend to do. We look forward to "crowding out" along with you.

All good wishes,  
Members of the 2007 Lambda Class  
Washington County Leadership Institute