

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: Local Media Contacts**  
**FROM: Sunrise County Economic Council**  
**DATE: April 16, 2010**  
**RE: Leadership Institute Completes 14<sup>th</sup> Year**

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The Washington County Leadership Institute (WCLI) capped off its Noyce award winning year with the graduation of the 2010 (Xi) Class April 7 at the Cobscook Community Learning Center in Trescott.

“WCLI had a great year,” said Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) Executive Director Harold Clossey. “Receiving the Noyce Award for Nonprofit Excellence from the Maine Community Foundation gave us real momentum going into the 2010 session. Without their support, or that of the Washington County Fund, WCLI would not be where it is today,” Clossey said, adding that this year’s class has taken their training to a new level. “We also had a fantastic group of participants who enjoyed their time together so much that they’re planning on staying connected and doing their own community service projects. It’s truly gratifying to see how WCLI builds on itself each and every year.”

SCEC Program Manager Jennifer Peters, who has coordinated WCLI since 2002, echoed Clossey’s assessment.

“I know I say that every year, but it’s true. People meet, become friends, discover new things about Washington County and, thanks to the skills they learn in class, realize that they really are leaders and can make a difference in their own communities,” she said. “That’s why WCLI is successful every year. And it’s why we’re starting to get statewide recognition for what the Institute has accomplished.”

WCLI was launched in 1997 as part of a collaborative between SCEC and the University of Maine at Machias (UMM). Over the past fourteen years, 223 people from all walks of life have taken part in the course which is offered from January to April of each year.

Participants of the 2010 (Xi) Class include Heather Andrews (Downeast Coastal Conservancy), Catherine Betz (Machias Savings Bank), Donna Cochran (Down East Credit Union), Kim Emerson (Axiom Technologies), Jim Howell (Downeast Communications), Alvion Kimball (Orland House Bed & Breakfast), Sara McConnell (Washington County: One Community), Natalie Michelle (Four Directions Dev. Corp.), Dale Miller (Machias Rotary Club), Bette Papke (Down East Credit Union), Lanette Pottle (Hannaford), Jonathan Ramsdell (Washington County: One Community), Jody Rose (Tales Told), Lea Sullivan (Katie’s on the Cove), and Mia White (The EdGE/Maine Seacoast Mission).

Peters also thanked nearly a dozen organizations whose support helps make the course more affordable for participants.

“WCLI would not be possible without our sponsors whose support makes the course accessible to anyone who wants to participate,” she said. “This year’s sponsors include Bar Harbor Banking & Trust, Camden National Bank, the Eaton Foundation, First Wind, Machias Savings Bank, RHR Smith

& Company, SCEC, the University of Maine at Machias, Washington County Community College, and the Washington County Council of Governments.”

“Participate in WCLI if you have the chance,” urged Xi alumnus Jody Rose of Jonesboro. “Not only will it change your life, but it will give you the ability to more effectively make positive change in Washington County.”

To learn more about WCLI, visit [www.washingtoncountyleadership.org](http://www.washingtoncountyleadership.org) or email Peters at [scec@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:scec@sunrisecounty.org), or call 255-0983.

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