



For Immediate Release:

October 1, 2013

Hancock Youth Leadership Academy releases 2013-14 applications

Applications for the 2013-14 Hancock Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA), an initiative of the Hancock Resource Center, are now available for interested junior high and high school students. Two separate programs will be offered again this upcoming year.

The junior high leadership program is a little different from traditional youth leadership programs. The ideal candidate for this program is an eighth grade student from one of our four middle schools in Hancock County (or homeschooled equivalent) that has leadership potential, but has not yet had the opportunity to discover it. This program IS NOT for the young person that has already been identified as a leader by their teachers or peers. Rather than develop or bolster emerging leaders, the HYLA junior high program will help unlikely leaders recognize their potential and the stress the necessity of being successful and independent. Three workshops are scheduled throughout the spring semester, with a retreat and graduation in May. The cost of the program is \$100 per student; scholarships may be available for eligible applicants who are selected for the program.

The HYLA high school program is more traditional and is based on the six building blocks of community development: Business Development; Workforce Development; Physical Infrastructure; Social Infrastructure; Cultural and Environmental Stewardship; and Civic Infrastructure. This program targets eleventh grade students from all Hancock County schools (as well as their home-schooled equivalents) who aspire to sharpen already developed leadership skills and to embed those skills in civic commitment. The successful applicant will be the student who is able to: 1) balance academics and multiple activities while prioritizing this program; 2) plan and complete both individual and group projects; 3) be open-minded, have a positive attitude, and the capacity to enhance leadership skills; and 4) demonstrate a commitment to our community. Focused sessions include such topics as: How to Affect Change; Civic Engagement; Career Planning and Budgeting; Economic Development and Entrepreneurship; College Planning (overnight "college cruise"); Community Assets; Diversity, Safety, and Wellness on Campus. The cost of the program is \$250; applicants may request scholarships through the school that they attend.

Applications are available now through all area schools, on the Hancock Resource Center website, www.hancockhrc.org, or by calling 228-463-8887. The deadline for submission of the completed junior high application is October 31 and deadline for the high school application is November 8. HYLA staff will hold an optional workshop for interested high school applicants on October 14, 2013 at 7:00pm in the conference room of the Hancock Resource Center. This workshop is designed to assist applicants in the process by highlighting best practices in both writing and interviewing skills.

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