



Westchester Jewish Council (WJC)

Leadership Development Institute (“LDI”)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What is WJC’s Leadership Development Institute (LDI)?

The Leadership Development Institute (LDI) was created by Westchester Jewish Council in 2013 to provide greater value to our member organizations and to support the challenges facing those organizations in developing leadership. The LDI’s primary service to its members is the Leadership Development program to help build and sustain Jewish organizations, community and continuity. LDI studies issues facing the Jewish community; creates, manages, funds and runs the annual leadership development program; and sustains ongoing relationships with the LDI alumni to continue to inspire and train leadership.

What is the LDI Program?

The LDI invites Westchester’s rising Jewish leaders to join us for eight engaging sessions between October and May. Each session features a presentation by an expert on a vital topic confronting Jewish leadership. We begin with a light dinner and networking opportunity, follow with the expert presentation and finish with a facilitated discussion focused on various ways program participants can face the issues and better serve their constituencies. Sessions are held at member sites across Greater Westchester.

Who Should Participate in the LDI Program?

Participating in LDI is both a commitment and an honor. Those chosen to join the program have been identified by their sponsoring organization as individuals who represent the future of leadership in Jewish organizations in Westchester County. It is believed that these individuals can benefit from perspectives gained through:

- Exchanges with thoughtful peers addressing similar issues across varying institutions
- Formation of relationships and networking with like-minded leaders throughout Greater Westchester County
- Introduction to other Westchester Jewish Council member organizations

Participants must attend the eight Wednesday evening sessions scheduled between October and May: October 18, 2017, November 1, December 6, January 10, 2018, February 7, March 7, April 11, May 9.

What is the LDI Curriculum?

The programming staff of LDI has **developed a dynamic educational program addressing practical issues facing Jewish organizations and the Jewish community at large.** Topics planned for this year range from “Who are today’s Jews in Westchester?” to “The care and nurturing of volunteers,” and “Leadership resources you didn’t know you had.” Sessions are conducted by Clergy, Executive Directors and lay leaders with expertise in the appropriate areas. Forums range from lectures to interactive discussions and role playing. Time is always provided for LDI participants to interact with each other as these discussions always provide valuable insights.

What are the Benefits of Participating in the LDI?

- The LDI brings together a group of emerging leaders at similar stages of volunteer development to learn together, support each other and build a network of individuals who can be a resource in coming years.
- The LDI class is a relatively small group, generally 20 participants, inspiring each person to have a meaningful experience.



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- There is **no cost either to the sponsoring Westchester Jewish Council member organization or to the participants**. This is designed as a member benefit provided by the Westchester Jewish Council.
- The LDI program provides participants with skills that will both help their organizations and improve credibility and confidence for achieving greater leadership positions.

NOMINATING A PARTICIPANT

How Can Someone Join the Leadership Development Institute?

Participants in the Westchester Jewish Council LDI **must be nominated by a Westchester Jewish Council member organization**. There are a limited number of places available. The LDI committee will review all applications and select a diverse class to inspire a rich exchange of ideas. Final selections will be made based on nominations submitted by August 31, 2017.

Why Should a Westchester Jewish Council Member Organization Nominate Someone?

The [Leadership Development Institute](#) will help member organizations develop future leaders. We have selected topics that many member organizations are facing. By drawing on the Westchester Jewish Council's resources, we will be able to introduce new leaders to experienced professionals who can provide insightful leadership on these issues. Participants will bring back the best thinking of the community to their sponsoring organizations.

Nominating a candidate is an opportunity to recognize and inspire a committed member of your organization. This honor of nomination offers him or her an opportunity to broaden their Jewish leadership literacy by engaging with other emerging leaders and some of the area's most accomplished clergy, professional and lay leaders.

Who Should We Nominate?

The ideal participant is someone who has had first hand experience in a volunteer role within your organization and can contribute to the dialogue on the issues that will be addressed. **The person should be identified as an individual with the commitment and ability to take on more responsibility in the future.** This is a real opportunity to recognize a dedicated volunteer.

What Does it Cost the Member Organization?

There is **no cost to either the participant or the organization**. The Westchester Jewish Council is funding the Institute because it is an important investment in the future of the community.



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When are Nominations Due?

All nominations must be received in the Westchester Jewish Council office by August 31, 2017.

ORGANIZATION SPONSORSHIPS

Why Should My Organization Host and Sponsor a Session?

Whether you have a program participant this year or not, we are looking for organizations to host and sponsor each of the eight different sessions. The Westchester Jewish Council created the [Leadership Development Institute](#) to develop the next generation of energetic, motivated and knowledgeable leaders throughout the Westchester County Jewish community. This is envisioned as a communal effort and depends on the support of our member organizations.

Organizations that sponsor an LDI session get several benefits:

- A session held at your facility will literally “put you on the map”
- WJC is all about networking, partnering, and building a strong and sustainable greater Westchester Jewish community. The exposure you’ll gain by showcasing your organization will offer you the opportunity to build these stronger bonds between organizations.
- You are making a contribution to developing future leaders

What is Involved in Being a Session Sponsor?

There are two simple responsibilities. The first is opening your building one night with a room large enough to accommodate the group of approximately 30 people for three hours. The other is to provide a light kosher dinner for the participants.

Why is it Preferable to Have a Different Sponsor for Each Session?

By rotating the sessions throughout the area, participants will learn about member organizations and gain a better understanding of the greater Westchester Jewish community. Since one of the goals of the program is to build a network of leaders who can support one another, visiting different venues will facilitate greater understanding.



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THE PROGRAM

8 Different Hot Topic Sessions [Sample Curriculum]

- Engagement: Building relationships and Jewish continuity
- Security needs in today's environment
- Financial responsibility and new models of financial support
- Communication to reach all cohorts
- Leadership resources you didn't know you had
- Creating engagement among today's "Just Jews"
- The care and nurturing of volunteers
- Who are today's Jews in Westchester?

Discussion Leaders

Each session will be led by a subject matter expert who will make a presentation that provides background information on that evening's topic. **These professionals are carefully selected for their knowledge, experience and ability to lead stimulating discussions.**

Session Format

Each session will be divided into two segments: a presentation followed by a lively group discussion. **Participants will leave every session with a better understanding of the issue and ideas to bring back to their organization.**

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