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Community Foundation Launches LEAD Council Program

The Northern New York Community Foundation has officially launched its new LEAD Council program this month. The leadership initiative is designed to give young professionals an opportunity to have a direct hand in community philanthropy and engagement in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. The council will be able to participate in strategic grantmaking, learn more about the impact of non-profit organizations in our region and develop individual leadership skills. The acronym for LEAD stands for: Leadership, Engagement, Access and Direction.

“Young professionals don’t have to wait to be leaders,” said Max DelSignore, Community Foundation coordinator of donor services. “This program will empower our council to make a lasting impact in our local communities. Our goal is to have this experience give council members a greater sense of belief in our region and a willingness to strengthen it.”

The Community Foundation has selected 11 charter members across a number of professional sectors to complete the first council. The members are:

Name, Residency	Employer
Samuel Burgess, <i>Watertown</i>	Conboy, McKay, Bachman & Kendall LLP
Erica Demick, <i>Hammond</i>	YesterYear Vintage Doors, LLC
Stacey Eger, <i>Lowville</i>	Jefferson-Lewis BOCES
Erika Flint, <i>Dexter</i>	Watertown Urban Mission
Trevor Garlock, <i>Watertown</i>	Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance, Co.
Jason Jantzi, <i>Dexter</i>	Bernier Carr & Associates
Tracy Leonard, <i>Watertown</i>	Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
John Nuber, <i>Clayton</i>	RBC Wealth Management
Andrea Pfeiffer, <i>Alexandria Bay</i>	River Hospital
Erin Simser, <i>Watertown</i>	Fort Drum Mountain Community Homes
Robert Sligar, <i>Carthage</i>	Carthage Federal Savings & Loan

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LEAD Council is also supported by four local sponsors: Slack Chemical Company, Fort Drum Mountain Community Homes, Bernier Carr & Associates and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization. The local businesses and organizations are partnering with the Community Foundation to assist with the grant funding component of the program and offer overall support to the cultivation and development of young professionals in our region.

The LEAD Council will play an active role in identifying, addressing and positively impacting the North Country through thoughtful discussion, interaction with community leaders and purposeful action. Additional components to the program will include council meetings, site visits, building relationships with local non-profit organizations and participation in Community Foundation events.

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