



## News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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October 13, 2009

### Leadership Somerset Program Application Deadline Extended to Oct. 30

Applicants are being sought for the **Leadership Somerset class of 2010**. The goal of the program is to develop an active network of informed, concerned citizens; strengthen leadership skills and broaden participants' knowledge of the issues and challenges facing Somerset County. **The application deadline for the year-long program has been extended to Friday, Oct. 30.**

"We encourage individuals who are interested in becoming leadership resources for their communities to apply for the program. Each participant brings unique knowledge, experience and perspective that enhances the experience," said Peter S. Palmer, co-liaison of the Leadership Somerset program. "Leadership Somerset members challenge themselves and others to seek solutions to community needs."

Established in 2000, Leadership Somerset focuses on a variety of program topics, including the economy, government, human services, housing and community development, arts/culture/heritage, healthcare, justice, environment, life-long learning, diversity and leadership skills.

"With 214 graduates, this program has brought a greater understanding of the issues facing Somerset County's diverse population to a new group of community leaders," said Freeholder Patricia Walsh, co-liaison of the program. "Class members develop a broader network of contacts by participating in Leadership Somerset and learn how to better collaborate with other leaders."

Sessions are held once a month, from January through December, on the third Wednesday. The classes, which are held at various locations throughout the county, start at about 8 a.m. and end by 5 p.m.

The majority of the cost to attend the year-long program is underwritten by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Leadership Somerset participants are asked to contribute a program fee of \$200 for the year, which includes participation in all twelve sessions and meals. Limited scholarships based on financial need are available. A diverse group of applicants will be selected in October to begin the program in January.

Leadership Somerset is sponsored by Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Somerset County Business Partnership, Raritan Valley Community College, Somerset County United Way, Business and Education Alliance Inc., and Ethicon Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company.

For more information or to receive an application, call (908) 231-7040 or email [LeadershipSomerset@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:LeadershipSomerset@co.somerset.nj.us). The application can be found on Leadership Somerset's Website at [http://www.leadershipsomerset.org/program\\_overview.htm](http://www.leadershipsomerset.org/program_overview.htm).