



BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Empowering Executives as Nonprofit Leaders

Center for Public Service/Nonprofit Sector
Resource Institute
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PRESS RELEASE

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THE BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TO BE OFFERED AGAIN IN 2008 A Seton Hall University/VMC Partnership

South Orange, NJ - Following a very successful piloting of the Board Leadership Institute (BLI) during 2006-'07, Seton Hall University and Volunteer Management Centers (VMC), will again offer the program on Thursday afternoons beginning May 8th of 2008. BLI is designed to maximize the enormous potential for corporate executives and professional people to be effective leaders when serving as members of nonprofit boards.

A collaboration of Seton Hall University's Center for Public Service/Nonprofit Sector Resource Institute and VMC, BLI was originally made possible by a generous two-year grant from the UPS Foundation. The program has been run four times over the last two years and the participant response has been overwhelmingly positive.

The BLI program covers such topics as: roles and responsibilities of board members, running effective board meetings, resource development, strategic planning, legal and fiduciary responsibilities, collaborations and marketing.

Seton Hall has long been recognized for its programs for businesses and for nonprofits. As part of its commitment to enhancing the effectiveness of volunteers, VMC has a well-established program for board members that has provided the basic building block for the new BLI pilot.

Participants in prior BLIs have been enthusiastic. Kay Roelke of Novartis said, "This is a well organized and presented program. I was particularly impressed with the quality of the class presenters." Sean Dugan, a lawyer said "As a neophyte board member, BLI taught me what I need to know to be a more effective trustee." Christina Guidice Duffy, a private banker with Bank of America. Said "I loved the discussions around the different topics being presented."



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PRESS RELEASE - Board Leadership Institute (cont.)

Barkley Calkins, the BLI Program Director from Seton Hall says "This kind of positive feedback from the participants is truly empowering for those of us who have worked to develop the program. We are delighted to be able to offer BLI again this spring."

Joanne Kobus, the BLI Program Director from VMC adds, "At VMC, our vision is to increase the impact and effectiveness of its not-for-profit communities through volunteerism. By strengthening the governance of the organizations comprising the sector, BLI is contributing to the fulfillment of this vision." Ms. Kobus adds, "The BLI staff will assist all interested participants in finding board service opportunities upon completion of the program."

Applications are now being accepted for the spring '08 program. Sessions will be held on five Thursday afternoons beginning May 8th, 2008, on the Seton Hall University in South Orange. To obtain an application or additional information regarding the Board Leadership Institute, call 973-761-9734, e-mail bli@shu.edu or go to <http://shu.edu>.