

*To our fellow public leaders,*

***The Public Sector Consortium (PSC) in Partnership with the Pell Center at Salve Regina University in Newport RI has developed a unique system of leadership development and application for municipal leaders, elected state legislators, non-profit leaders and academic leaders called Leadership Matters Rhode Island.***

***The press release attached describes the result of these year-long efforts.***

Leaders from Rhode Island's cities and towns converged on the Pell Center at Salve Regina University on Friday, March 20, 2015, to report on a year's worth of effort to improve the responsiveness and efficiency of local government. The innovation conference highlighted the work of the three Rhode Island municipal communities to participate in the program's inaugural year: Pawtucket, Middletown, and Newport.

Leadership Matters is a three-phased leadership development program. In the first phase, each community sends four leaders for eight days of classroom instruction in facilitative leadership systems thinking, negotiation practices for public leaders, and strategic alignment for performance. The faculty and curriculum were developed and provided by the PSC.

In the second phase of the program, the leadership teams work with additional colleagues in city or town hall to achieve their innovation project. The project is designed to provide improved services to their city, town or organization. Additional leaders and colleagues from each city or town are given tailored training to improve their capacity to achieve the outcomes of the innovations project. Leadership Matters supports each participating community with additional training in systems thinking, customer service communication skills, along with mentoring, and coaching from experienced former public leaders affiliated with the PSC.

Finally, in phase three participating communities come together one year after the program begins to share their best practices and outcomes. The Innovations conference, includes people from across the state including the leaders currently in phase one of the second group of leaders enrolled in the program. The leaders completing the program share their best practices and begin to create a learning community of leaders across the state.

The challenges facing public leaders—whether in Rhode Island or around the world—can be reduced to one simple insight: LEADERSHIP MATTERS. Whether transforming the way city hall and a school system operate in concert, or making municipal services more responsive to the needs of constituents, the critical difference between a community moving forward or becoming mired in frustration is leadership.

Please take a few minutes to read the press release which describes the amazing work of the first LM cohort and the benefits they are achieving for their citizens. Members of the second class of leaders are working on their projects now and registration for cohort three beginning in the fall is almost complete. Thank you.