

Center for Excellence in Public Leadership

Summer News

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Welcome to the first edition of our E-news. We hope these regular newsletters will help you stay connected with the Center. Please don't forget to keep us updated on your achievements and successes!

Sincerely,

Jim Robinson
Executive Director

Bringing Wise Solutions to the Washington Metropolitan Region

REDP/IRE 7 Poster Session

The Institute for Regional Excellence and The George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership strike again through the Regional Executive Development Program. Cohort 7 introduced their Policy Project Recommendation, July

1st, at a Poster Session at the Council of Governments. The policy projects focused around topics including affordable housing, climate change, partnership building, and youth violence.



A short briefing feedback was provided as a follow up to the teams who were also congratulated by the CAOs and program staff. Among many comments, Arlington County Manager Ron Carlee highlighted the leadership contribution of the program in the region. Alexandria City Manager Jim Hartmann reminded participants not to forget to follow up, to be mentors for future leaders, and to let everyone know that the "Potomac River is not that deep, not that wide".

[Please click here for a summary of the REDP/IRE policy projects.](#)

CEPL Graduate Profile

Neighborhood College Graduate Launches Business!

Ms. Cherise Mattheson, a Cohort 4 DC Neighborhood College graduate, recently launched her own business, *cebonyRISE*, aimed at encouraging students and young adults to reach their full professional potential. Ms. Mattheson's inspiration for this new venture came largely from her desire to make a difference, her entrepreneurial spirit, and her unique personal experience. Growing up with a single mother, Ms. Mattheson preoccupied her afterschool time with programs such as Girl Scouts and the Educational Talent Search Program, which helped to develop her character and build her confidence. She was motivated further when CNN's "Black in America" series detailed the story of a young female who, despite being raised by two parents suffering from addictions, was accepted into college. According to Cherise, "seeing her cry and knowing that college would change her life was the moment I had an epiphany...I had a responsibility to make sure other youth with similar experiences are offered opportunities." Ms. Mattheson's inspiration reached its fruition when she was accepted into the DC Neighborhood College program with the Center for Excellence in Public Leadership. It was in this program that Ms. Mattheson learned practical skills, such as project management, conflict resolution, leadership, and public speaking, which she is now applying to her business *cebonyRISE*. As part of the Neighborhood College, she also became a member of the GW community, providing her with a network of service-oriented alumni.

Ms. Mattheson's company is directed at aspiring college-bound students, whom she seeks to empower through her formula, R.I.S.E (Research, Investment, Service, and Education). One of *cebonyRISE*'s main goals is to develop research skills in young adults and to raise awareness about the abundance of professional research. Ms. Mattheson also believes that investment means not only teaching the benefits of time and financial investment, but also investing time and effort in the youth themselves. The Service and Education aspects of the R.I.S.E. formula offer service and community building opportunities to young adults who in turn build character, utilize knowledge, and develop skills in real world situations.

The Center for Excellence in Public Leadership would like to congratulate Ms. Mattheson on her personal journey and on the formation of *cebonyRISE*. For more information or to contribute, please visit: <http://www.cebonyrise.webs.com>.

Fresh Faces at the Center

Catherine White, Program Associate

Catherine White joined CEPL in June as our new program associate, replacing Urvi Thanki. In this role Catherine is responsible for supporting marketing efforts including our online presence and outreach efforts, as well as supporting general Center programs. Catherine has previously worked in a Southern California architecture office as the accounting assistant and at the Department of State as a research intern. She is a senior majoring in International Affairs with the Elliott School here at GW and currently exploring career and educational opportunities after graduation.

Ina Gjikondi, Program Manager

Ina Gjikondi has joined the CEPL staff full time as the Program Manager in charge of municipal programs, expanding on her previous role as the graduate assistant for these programs. She comes from a non-profit background actively involved in the United Nations movement in Albania, her home country. After working for Citizens Youth Commission, Municipality of Tirana and exploring policy-making in local government, she founded the United Nations Association of Albania (UNAA) in June 2004, joining the World Federation of United Nations and representing the UN voice of civil society in the country.

We are glad to have both of these talented women on our staff!

The Center Embraces Web 2.0

Facebook and Alumni communities launched!

CEPL has joined the world of Web 2.0! In June we launched a CEPL facebook page in addition to existing alumni communities created for the Senior Executive Development Program, Neighborhood College, and the Program for Excellence in Municipal Management. The main page is being used to notify members of upcoming events as well as distribute relevant news and academic articles. Alumni networks are also available to allow graduates to stay in touch with each other, exchange information, and receive updates from the Center.

If you haven't already become a fan of The Center for Excellence in Public Leadership, or joined the relevant alumni group, we encourage you to do so today!

www.facebook.com/PublicLeadership

[DC Neighborhood College Alumni Network on Facebook](#)

-
[PEMM Network on Facebook](#)

[Senior Executive Development Program Alumni Network](#)

Fall Professional Development Programs

Space is still available in the following programs

Are you considering taking a professional development workshop or know someone who is? We still have space in the following programs. Please refer interested parties to our website for further information.
www.leadership-programs.org

Sept. 15-17:

[Executive Communication Intensive Workshop](#)

Sept. 23:

[Introduction to Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution](#)

Sept. 24-Oct 23:

[Senior Leader Program](#)

Oct. 20-22:

[Advanced Leadership Workshop](#)

Upcoming Conferences



Mention "GWU" to receive a special \$200 discount!

Congratulations Dr. Houghtby-Haddon!

Dr. Natalie Houghtby-Haddon Earns Double Doctorate!

The Center for Excellence in Public Leadership would like to congratulate our Associate Director, Dr. Natalie Houghtby-Haddon, on the completion of her Doctorate of Philosophy with the George Washington University. Her dissertation, entitled, "Changed Imagination, Changed Obedience: The Bent-Over Woman as Social Vision in the Gospel of Luke," focuses on developing a civic discourse theory to assist social groups in their organization and sustainability. Dr. Houghtby-Haddon's work primarily examines the role of imagination in creating both the avenues for social change and the power to implement this change. She successfully defended her dissertation on June 30, 2009 in front of a panel of six, making her a double doctorate holder. Congratulations!

Help Us Plan! Take our short survey.

CEPL is considering a series of events for late 2009 and early 2010. Please help us plan by answering a one-question poll on when you would be most likely to attend an event.

[Click here to take the poll!](#)