

The Fayetteville Observer

Community leadership training set

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Sally Shutt

One of the four leadership training opportunities that applicants for Cumberland County's boards and commissions can utilize is registering for 2015-16 in the next three weeks.

Registration is ongoing for the **Institute for Community Leadership** through July 11. It is expected to attract a number of businessmen and women. Sally Shutt, governmental affairs officer for the county, described the seven sessions as very informative each year. And there's a nice caveat: it is free.

"It really is an opportunity to develop and empower members of our community," Shutt said. "Maybe they haven't been previously identified, or are currently involved with a group. This is an opportunity to get some training, to learn about the various opportunities in our community."

Commissioners have input to 35 boards and commissions, and begin that process with a review of applications from Cumberland County residents. One component, a checklist, in the application is reference to graduation from a leadership academy.

None are a prerequisite, but Fayetteville and Cumberland County have four significant choices: the **Institute for Community Leadership**, Leadership Fayetteville, United Way's Multi-Cultural Leadership Development Program and the Cumberland County Citizens' Academy. Having completed one or more would likely make an impression on commissioners.

There's also a spot to list graduation from another leadership academy, such as from another city or county. Many have them through respective chambers of commerce.

The city of Fayetteville's application process to boards and commissions is similar. City Council has input to 24 boards and commissions, and its online application has a place to include similar leadership academy participation from seven entities, plus any not listed. **The Institute for Community Leadership** is one of them.

Shutt agrees that ensuring diversity and broad participation gets its first step with the application process.

At a meeting earlier this month, Commissioner Jeannette Council lamented the lack of diversity on the Human Relations Commission.

"We normally try to make the boards pretty diverse," Council said in making her point June 1. "I would like all our boards to represent the makeup of the citizenry."

Shutt said in the leadership academy, "It's an opportunity to come together and discuss some local issues and build relationships with others who are interested in building their community. It shows them how to take the next step."

The partner organizations have two-year rotations for providing the executive director of the **Institute for Community Leadership**. Shutt, public information officer since 2009 and nearing 10 years working for the county, said the academy will be sending through its 11th graduating class.

The partner organizations pony up \$528.00 in addition to providing the sites and instructors for the seven meetings.

The participants, during their time, will eventually do a community service project, elect class leaders and be active in the Arts Council's nonprofits fair in March.

A full list of requirements and an application are available at leadership4us.org. For more information, call 437-1921 or email sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us.

- Alan Wooten

http://www.fayobserver.com/news/business/business-buzz-community-leadership-training-set/article_8860d4f0-3d62-5ef3-9176-77e5c794d9ae.html

Sally Shutt is governmental affairs officer for Cumberland County, and she is the new executive director for the Institute for Community Leadership.