



COUNTY OF AMHERST

Public Information Officer

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First Graduating Class of Leadership Amherst

Leadership Amherst graduated its inaugural class Tuesday, March 22. The eight-month course gave eight participants the skills that are needed to examine their organization and how to be an effective leader in an ever changing world. They were provided an understanding of the opportunities and issues facing Amherst County and were challenged to use their leadership abilities to influence, motivate, and enable others to contribute toward the good of their organizations and the community.

Claudia Tucker, Chair of the Board of Supervisors gave the commencement speech. She praised all of the County departments and their recent improvements, which give the citizens invaluable services while keeping taxes low. Her speech included a quote from Winston Churchill and her own remarks about making a difference. She said: "I truly believe that "making a difference" is what led you all to participate in this program. It may have been one-part curiosity, another part frustration and for others this may be the first step in a longer-term goal of running for an elected position." Tucker challenged the participants to use their new skills by volunteering in their community to help move Amherst County into the future. She ended her speech by answering questions on current matters in the County.

Applications are now being accepted for the Leadership Amherst 2018-2019. The training begins in September and runs through April. Topics will include crucial conversations, a roundtable discussion with local leaders, ethics in the workplace, healthcare, economic development, etc. We encourage you to be a part of the positive change that is happening in Amherst County.

The inaugural class included:

Jack Bonneville is the shop foreman with Swissomation VA

Ron Campbell works in IT for Amherst County

Debra Habel is the Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity

Leslie Perkins is the Assistant Dean of Student Life at Sweet Briar College

Jonathan Schjonning is the President of Swissomation VA

Luke Saechao is the Program Manager of Adult Career Education of Central Virginia located in Amherst County

Additional information may be obtained from Layney Sandifer at lesandifer@countyofamherst.com, (434)-946-9400 or Lori Saunders at (434)946-5200.