



LEAD LOCAL: Barnes County

Empowering Community Leaders via Skills Workshop

Public Value Statement

Leadership and civic engagement is necessary for the future of North Dakota communities in order to develop capable and strong leaders.

The Situation

Lack of leadership and civic engagement was one of the primary concerns expressed at 11 state-wide community forums held in 2015. Currently in ND, 1 in 24 people over the age of 18 are needed to fill the number of open positions available on boards, councils and community organizations.

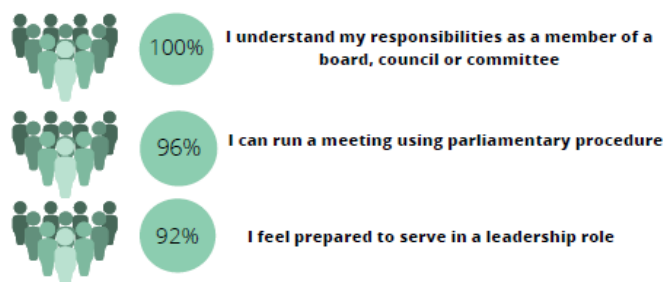
The Barnes County Volunteer/Leadership Coalition identified a key need to train current and potential leaders in Barnes County on skills essential to serving effectively.

Extension Response

To help solve for these needs, the Lead Local program was developed by NDSU Extension's Community Vitality Specialists to help community members feel more prepared to serve as an effective council member. Objectives of the workshop are: recognize components of an effective meeting, learn parliamentary procedure, acquire conflict management tools, and understand personality styles. In January 2020, Agent Susan Milender and Specialist Jodi Bruns taught Lead Local in Barnes County to 26 adult participants with varied leadership experience.

Impacts

Evaluation results showed the participants' level of understanding after the training:



The program's success continued into the business and youth sectors of the county. Susan Milender, Extension Agent, provided training to 18 entry and mid-level employees from Barnes County businesses. Also, Susan was asked to teach a Youth version of Lead Local with six participants ages 14 to 18.

Feedback



"I was recently elected mayor of our town and cut our meeting time in half by implementing more tips from the open meetings guide and following parliamentary procedures". *Stacey Lilja, participant*

"Thank you again for your inspiring presentation. I will recommend to friends and associates should there be another one in our area". *Dave Carlsrud, Mayor of Valley City*

Primary Contact

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Collaborators

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Resource Links

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/lead/leadership-development-program/lead-local>