



Wildacres Leadership Initiative 2010 – *Leading with Civility*

In 2010, the Wildacres Leadership Initiative will focus its programming on the theme of ***Leading with Civility***. WLI will design its joint leadership conference with the Leadership Work Group, annual Fellows Gathering, and 15th Anniversary Celebration around this theme. WLI also will host a number of dialogue circles in communities around the state.

The overarching goal of each event will be to urge participants to incorporate deep respect and humility into their leadership practice, while passionately engaging across deep difference in discourse, activities and decision-making that affects people around them.

The 2010 Leadership Conference

On April 8th the Leadership Work Group, which includes WLI, American Leadership Forum, Charlotte Arts and Science Council's Leadership Program, Leadership Development Institute, Leadership Charlotte, Innovation Institute and Whitehead & Associates, hosted its second annual leadership conference - ***Leadership and Civility: Navigating Complex Conversations with Passion and Courage***. The conference was held in Charlotte with 130 participants from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Queens University of Charlotte.

Andy Sachs of the Orange County Dispute Settlement Center was our lead facilitator. Andy is a long-time program partner of the Friday Fellowship. His expertise is in assisting governments, business, non-profit and community organizations to resolve conflict, discuss difficult topics and develop skills in consensus building. Susan Podziba was the keynote speaker. Susan is Principal and Public Policy Mediator at Susan Podziba & Associates. She is known for designing processes tailored to the unique characteristics of complex public policy conflicts and challenges. For more than twenty years, Ms. Podziba has mediated scores of cases involving international relations, governance, environmental disputes, land use and development decisions, transportation planning, security, labor standards, public health, and education policy.

The goals of the conference were:

- To network alumni across the participating organizations
- To create a sense of the need for leaders to incorporate civility into their leadership practice
- To provide a space to practice using tools for greater civility in public leadership
- To provide participants with at least one tool they can incorporate into their daily practice

There is a follow up plan in place to collect data from conference participants over time. This data will tell the story of how leaders are using the skills they learned in practical ways.

Fellows Gathering 2010

The 12th Annual Fellows Gathering will be held May 28-30 at Wildacres Retreat.

The 2010 gathering will focus all programming on civility. The goal is to create experiences that will result in both the Friday Fellows and family members leaving with the need for civility top of mind.

The hope is that families will continue the discussion that begins on the mountain using tools they learn during the weekend.

WLI's 15th Anniversary Celebration

This year marks the 15th Anniversary of the Wildacres Leadership Initiative. We will celebrate in Charlotte on October 14th at a location to be determined.

The event will honor WLI's founders and also serve as a fundraiser for the organization.

Mr. Bill Friday has tentatively agreed to attend and he will be a part of our program that evening by interviewing a group of North Carolina leaders on the topic of civility. We plan to document this interview and share it with the public.

The goal of this celebration is to showcase WLI by highlighting one of the most important tenets of its work through the Friday Fellowship, Fellows Action Network and Center for Excellence in Leadership.

Dialogue Circles

Throughout this year, WLI will sponsor and implement dialogue circles to discuss and wrestle with the idea of Leading with Civility. WLI will host a series of dialogue circles across the state for Friday Fellows and other community leaders, the goals of which are to discuss the need for civility in public leadership, the challenges around being civil, and ways in which the concept can be incorporated in daily leadership practice. Participants also will be reminded of effective tools and skills to use as they confront difficult public issues on a daily basis.

Wrapping Up 2010

During the year, WLI will collect data from participants in each of the activities it sponsors regarding what the participants have learned. WLI will assemble this data and publish it.

The publication will include:

- A description of each event and activities WLI sponsored
- An account of who attended the events and activities
- The data collected from each of the events and activities
- Conclusions drawn by WLI
- A List of Resources related to civil dialogue, managing public disputes, etc.
- Guidelines for effective dialogue
- A Call to Action – A letter encouraging citizens to incorporate principles and practices of civility in leadership into their lives.

We welcome and encourage your involvement in this exciting year ahead. There will be many ways to be involved and we will be in constant touch on how to engage in the coming months. Thanks for your support and involvement.