

FOCUS ON FUTURE LEADERS
CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

HISTORY OF CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG/TOUR OF CHARLOTTE

It is vital for our future and current leaders to understand Charlotte's illustrious history. This memorable tour will visit three existing Slave cemeteries! An informative visit to a former Slave church! A soul-stirring walk up the actual steps Slaves took to enter the balcony of a former Slave church! A thought provoking sit in the actual balcony Slaves used to worship! Participate in a Traditional African Memorial Service to include professional Live Drumming and OLD Slave Hymns! Plus souvenir snack bags that include discounts to local restaurants, retailers, and merchants. This tour is sponsored by Queen City Tours.

LEADERSHIP IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY
COMMITMENT AND INTEGRITY

This session will concentrate on the Commitment and Integrity commanded of Leaders in the African-American Community; the experience of the Black family; and, the role of the church and community/social organizations in the Black culture

RETREAT: SUCCESSFUL TEAM BUILDING / DIVERSITY

The purpose of this session is to stress the importance of team building and diversity in every working situation; and to give individuals a "safe" environment to increase their awareness of differences that are potential barriers to increased productivity and personal growth and development. This will be accomplished through various exercises and demonstrations.

ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this session is to provide a comprehensive overview of the "Community Based Organization" (CBO). Emphasis will be placed on the leadership qualities required for such an organization, along with how to develop a successful issue campaign. Various organization structures and the basics of running a meeting will also be shared. A Pro and Con discussion to derive a collective definition of what makes a good leader and the importance of multiple leadership. In summary, the participants should receive information from the session that will aid them in organizing in an efficient and systemized manner. Practical application will be implemented and evaluated through the class project.

AREA GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

What the Growth and Development of the Metrolina Means to a Leader:
In order to make a difference, leaders must be knowledgeable about land use and planning in the Metrolina region. This session is devoted to future growth and development of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and everything within a 50-mile radius thereof. i.e. What is Planning? Why Plan? What is the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission? Context of Change, Growth Assumptions and Key Issues; Key 2005/2010 Land Use Strategies including Re-direction of Growth, Intensification, Light Rail Transit, and, Implications and Risks of Growth.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF A LEADER: ORAL & WRITTEN

Oral and written communication skills are critical in effective leadership. This session will provide a refresher in key concepts of effective communication. The assignment for this class will be for each member to write a short essay about a subject of their choice. Each member will make an Oral Presentation before a video camera which will be critiqued by class and facilitators. Discussion also on how to utilize the media.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: IMPLICATIONS OF LEADERS

The purpose of this session is to discuss the power of the dollar in America, the basics of capitalism and the power of the “Black” dollar. The implications for African-American leaders in securing the future with a solid/cohesive economic plan for our communities will also be discussed. The class will discuss Community Economic Development – CDCs, Securing Our Personal Economic Future, Entrepreneurial Success in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and Voting Power of African Americans relative to economic development.

GOVERNMENT / POLITICAL AWARENESS

Understanding the operation of local government is one of the keys to a leader’s success. During this session, there will be a discussion of the make up of City and County Government systems, department functions, and the distinction of public services that each provide. Understanding how government works is only the first step. Next, one needs to be able to “move” within the system. This session will explore the political system and how it influences our lives; issue linkages /

community empowerment, political parties, the campaign process in Mecklenburg County from the Board of Elections to the Mayor's Office, and, how to access and participate in this process.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A LEADER IN EDUCATION

The purpose of this session is to gain an overview of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system – its structure and how it works. This session will also provide educational awareness on administrative, curriculum and student issues. Discussions will center on the evolution of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System (The History), and, comparisons to other systems in the State/Nation. Lastly, recommendations for community leadership involvement will be discussed.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR LEADERS

This session will explore the health issues - both physical and emotional – being faced by African-Americans while in leadership roles within the community. Discussions will center on some of the health issues currently facing our communities and explore preventative measures to better health.

GRANT WRITING

The purpose of this session is to provide a comprehensive overview of event planning and grant writing. Class will be given step-by-step instructions to the preparation and submission of a funding grant.

THE VOLUNTEER AND WHAT VOLUNTEERISM MEANS TO THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION – COMMITMENT AND INTEGRITY

This session is designed to teach how one can get involved in the many non-profit organizations in Charlotte. An explanation of the structure, funding and Board of Director's duties will be discussed. A list of the many sources and organizational directories will be provided.