

For Immediate Release

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Jennifer Dunn Leadership Institute Welcomes its Inaugural Class

Cle Elum, WA: Suncadia Resort will host the inaugural class for the Jennifer Dunn Leadership Institute (JDLI) which begins with a three-day introduction to leadership and political studies. The Institute's mission is to identify, recruit and develop future leaders from across Washington State who are committed to effective government that is sustainable over the long term.

"The founding members felt that my mom, the late Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn, with her legacy of excellence in government, personified the character and qualities our state needs in a new generation of leaders who can provide effective governance for our State far into the future," stated board Chairman Reagan Dunn.

The JDLI Board includes Councilman Reagan Dunn, Chair; Attorney General Rob McKenna, Vice Chair; Susan Stahlfeld, Partner at Miller Nash LLP; Catherine Brazil, Public Affairs Director for the Cowles Company; Vito Chiechi and Franz Gregory, consultants; State Representative Bill Hinkle from the 13th district in Cle Elum, and State Representative Kevin Parker from Spokane is the curriculum director

"As a public office holder, I feel a great responsibility to help develop the next generation of leaders in our state. The JDLI environment takes hands-on learning to the next level by exploring the prospective candidate's intellectual interests while challenging them on a wide variety of public policy issues," said Attorney General Rob McKenna.

The students will be instructed in policy analysis and critical thinking skills, and provided a thorough understanding of our state government institutions and political process. They will learn communications skills such as dealing effectively with the media and other audiences, through an in-depth communications curriculum, and also will learn about emerging campaign strategies.

JDLI is proud of its high-quality guest speakers and faculty who will be engaging the students in this rigorous curriculum. Among them is David Gergen, a Senior Political Analyst for CNN and advisor to Nixon, Ford, Clinton and Reagan. Dick Ruhe from the Blanchard Company will be teaching several classes on leadership. Also instructing will be Professor Michael Allen from the University of Washington, Professor Matt Manweller from Central Washington University, policy experts from the Washington Policy Center, and many other notables.

"As the Minority Whip in the State House, I know how important it is to have a deep understanding of policy issues as well as the ability to communicate your thoughts and ideas effectively to your constituents and the public at large. JDLI is constructed to reveal personal leadership styles and to teach leadership skills to the students by building on their strengths," said State Representative Bill Hinkle.

“Our inaugural class members have been handpicked from across the state from a wide spectrum of applicants. They represent the best and brightest from around Washington and I look forward to watching them progress through our program,” said Reagan Dunn.

Classes will be held from September 24 – 26, followed by another three days in October. A list of class members from across the state is attached.



Class of 2009

J.T. Wilcox

Roger Harbin

Joe Fain

Kevin Wallace

Nancy Wyatt

Chris Bredeson

Shelly O'Quinn

April Chapman

Sajal Sahay

Matt Morton

Matt Hamilton

Greg Bennett

Todd Reichert

Justin Weiss