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## **Chamber Foundation hosts Leadership Pensacola 2016 Graduation**

*Forty-eight individuals graduate from region's premier leadership program*

PENSACOLA, Fla. – May 19, 2016 – After 10 months of learning from the area's top leaders, touring various industry sectors and applying that information in a hands-on way through community projects, the Pensacola Chamber Foundation's Leadership Pensacola (LeaP) Class of 2016 successfully graduated from the program. The graduation ceremony was held at Seville Quarter and honored the individuals equipped with the knowledge to make our city a better place.

LeaP, a 10-month-long program established by the Greater Pensacola Chamber, consists of retreats, day-long seminars and community projects. The goal of the program ensures that the community's pool of talented leaders would be continually renewed.

"After finishing the Leadership Pensacola program, we hope these individuals will observe our community through a new lens in a completely different way," said Greater Pensacola Chamber President & CEO Clay Ingram. "Graduation from the class does not signify an end, but represents the beginning of making a difference in others' lives."

In an effort to help the area's homeless population in a sustainable and meaningful way, this year's LeaP class placed repurposed parking meters throughout downtown to serve as a repository for funds that may otherwise be given to panhandlers. Local artists decorated the 40 meters, and the funds collected from these "donation stations" will be given to the EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless.

"It was such an honor to be a part of this program," said class project chair Amanda Hindsman. "The connections I've made and the issues I've learned about will serve us all in our future making a difference in Pensacola. I'm so proud of each and every one of my classmates, and I'm excited to see the positive impact our class project has on the area's most vulnerable citizens."

The LeaP class of 2016 is: Daniel Akerman, Brett Aldridge, Kirk Bradley, Richard Chism, Mike Clarke, Adrienne Collins, Will Condon, Stacie Court, Matthew Cushing, Matt Deavenport, Mary Ann Ford, Scott Fraser, Jean Gilson, James Green, Jr., Drew Hardgrave, Amanda Hindsman, Maryette Huntinghouse, Melanie Jacobi, Scott Jernigan, Cam Johnson, Maegan Leonard, Tommi Lyter, Laura McCullers, Dave McDuff, Andrew McKay, Joseph McNair, Steve McNally, Grayson Miller, William Moore, Sunshine Nall, Jean Pierre N' Dione, Brock Neighbors, Josh Newby, Mark Olvera, Chuntell Patterson, Stephanie Powell, Stacey Ramos, Josh Schutts, Alicia Skolrood, Patty Spradling, Ben Stubbs, Michael Thibodeaux, Alyssa Tucker, Ray Walker, Lyndi Warner, Steve Williams, Harriet Wyer and Jordan Yee.

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### **About Leadership Pensacola**

Leadership Pensacola, a 501(c)(3), was founded in the fall of 1982 with the first graduating class in 1983. The Greater Pensacola Chamber established the program with a goal of ensuring the community's pool

of talented leaders would be continually renewed. For more information, call the Greater Pensacola Chamber at 850.438.4081. To date, more than 1,500 people have completed the Leadership Pensacola program and have acquired the skills, passion and connections to work effectively as community trustees. For additional information about Leadership Pensacola, please visit [www.pensacolachamber.com/LeaP](http://www.pensacolachamber.com/LeaP).

**About the Pensacola Chamber Foundation**

The Pensacola Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to drive economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life in Greater Pensacola by taking a long-term, strategic approach to regional growth and community building. Its goal is to build a healthier, better-educated workforce; to continue to advance the region's competitive economic positioning; and to improve community infrastructure by focusing on strengthening special economic interests within the region, on small business development, on minority initiatives, and on military support services. For additional information, please visit [www.PensacolaChamber.com](http://www.PensacolaChamber.com).