

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

I've been working on putting together Leadership Fortuna 2014. Coming up on its third year, Leadership Fortuna is still an almost unknown program.

Contrary to what some people might think, Leadership Fortuna isn't about teaching Leadership skills like conflict resolution or small group dynamics. It is about providing resources for community leaders so they can get things done.

Leadership Fortuna is a hybrid of other Leadership programs that exist around the state—it is not a new idea by any means. Our program probably most closely resembles what Redding and Santa Rosa have put together. I borrowed this language about our goals from both of those programs and from other established Leadership programs:

Leadership Fortuna wants to:

1. **EXPOSE PARTICIPANTS** to the processes, programs, opportunities and challenges that impact Fortuna and Humboldt County.
2. **STIMULATE INTEREST** in community activities and encourage engagement in local and regional affairs.
3. **CREATE A NETWORK** of community-minded leaders who will lead in a spirit of collaboration that fosters regional prosperity.
4. **PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS** with a behind-the-scenes view of local and regional issues and give them access to the top business, civic and community leaders

The 2014 class will meet every Thursday morning from 7:30 to 8:50 a.m. beginning the first week in January. During the four months, they will interact with speakers and go on field trips.

Field trips include Eel River Disposal Recycling Center, Eel River Brewing in Scotia, Redwood Memorial Hospital, the City's waste water treatment plan, and Humboldt Redwood Company.

Sessions with speakers include County Government with our Supervisor, CAO and County Clerk; our state and national elected official representatives; city government and local media.

In order to graduate in April at our annual dinner, they have to complete two homework assignments. They are required to attend two meetings outside of their routine and they have to go in person—no watching the Supervisors meeting on TV. Meetings can include City Council, Planning Department, Rotary or Toastmasters.

The group will also work on a project together. They determine what the project is and then make it happen. Last year's class made the new entry sign at Kenmar. They had to work with the city, with the designers and engineers; they had to problem solve and raise the money. They did an outstanding job.

I have high hopes for Leadership Fortuna 2014.

I enjoy being a part of the program and it's rewarding to watch the transformation of the class from the first week to graduation. For me, putting Leadership Fortuna together each year—is about the process.

This has been Erin Dunn with a community comment.