

NEWS RELEASE -

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Education Leadership Institute Expands to Berks County

(Harrisburg) - The statewide Institute for Community Leadership in Education is expanding to include a new site in Berks County. The eight-month program, designed for current and emerging community leaders who want to increase their knowledge about important statewide and local education policy issues, will begin on November 5, 2003, at the Berks County Intermediate Unit.

The Institute, which is sponsored by The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC), was first implemented in Pittsburgh in October 2000 and grew to two additional sites - Harrisburg and the Lehigh Valley - in the fall of 2001. The addition of the Berks County site marks the fourth year of expansion for the program.

Each site is supported by a network of regional partners. The Berks site will be supported by the Berks Business Education Coalition and Berks County Intermediate Unit #14.

Applications are encouraged from a broad range of citizens, including parents of school-age children, business and professional persons, educators, civic leaders, local elected officials, prospective school board candidates and others.

"My participation in ICLE gave me the right tools and the confidence to run for the Allentown School Board. I feel I can serve the school district, the students, parents and my community better with the knowledge I gained from this important program, " said ICLE graduate Gina Kormanick.

The Institute program consists of nine sessions, beginning on Wednesday, November 5, 2003, and continuing through Wednesday, May 26, 2004. Topics include Governance of Public Education; Standards, Assessment and Accountability; Engaging Parents and Community; K-16 Partnerships; School Finance; Early Childhood Education and School Readiness; School Leadership; Education Options and Innovations; Technology in the Schools; and a Day at the State Capitol. Monthly sessions will be held at Berks County Intermediate Unit #15, 1111 Commons Blvd., Reading, PA. All sessions, except the opening session and the Day at the State Capitol, are from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. The tuition for the program, paid either by the individual or by a sponsor, is \$499.

For more information and an application, contact The Education Policy and Leadership Center at 717-260-9900 or see www.eplc.org/leadership.html.

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