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LEADERSHIP PRINCE WILLIAM LAUNCH HAILED A SUCCESS
Kick-off well-attended by dignitaries and business leaders

On May 7, 2007, Leadership Prince William was unveiled to invited guests that included the Prince William County business, government and non-profit communities. Guests first attended a reception at George Mason University's Bull Run Hall, where they greeted by the Board of Regents, enjoyed music by a string trio from the PW Symphony Orchestra and cocktail fare by À la Carte catering.

A bagpiper then led the guests to the Verizon Auditorium for the program. Kathy Ellington, Executive Director started off what in her words was "a significant evening for our area" with the introduction of local dignitaries in attendance, including: Senator Charles J. Colgan, Representing Attorney General McDonnell's office-Juanita Berlinger, Representing Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Corey Stewart was Stella Krull, Representing PWCBS Supervisor Maureen Caddigan was Lynne Grasso, Prince William County Board of Supervisor Vice Chairman Martin Nohe, PWCBS Supervisor Wally Covington, PWCBS Supervisor John Stirrup, PWCBS Supervisor Michael May, City of Manassas Vice Mayor Harry Parrish, II, and City of Manassas Council members, Andy Harrover, Steve Randolph, Steve Smith, and Jonathan Way. City of Manassas Park City Council member Keith Miller Mayor of Occoquan Earnest Porta, Prince William County School Board Chairman Lucy Beauchamp, Prince William County School Board Vice Chairman Dr. Michael Otaigbe, Prince William County School Board member Don Richardson, Prince William County School Board member Milt Johns, and Manassas City School Board member Sheryl Bass.

Kris Spittler, partner at Vanderpool, Frostick & Nishanian, PC and Huey Battle, Virginia public affairs manager for Washington Gas gave a brief history of the new organization. Mr. Battle, a graduate of Leadership Fairfax and one of the developers for Leadership Arlington spoke about the benefits of the program. Kathy then presented an overview of the programs' topics, dates and deadlines. Classes will meet once a month for 9 months beginning with a 2-day retreat in September and will cover topics relevant to community issues such as History, Planning, Transportation and Economic Development, Environment, Open Space and Recreation, Education, Human Services, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Arts and Culture, and Communication She added that the "Leadership Prince William experience will be a unique combination of relationship-building, problem solving, civic engagement and personal growth."

Speakers included: Mike Vanderpool, partner in Vanderpool, Frostick & Nishanian, P.C. spoke about the role leaders play in the community. The Chairs of the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber and the Prince William Regional Chamber respectively, Joe Martin and Rebecca Barnes talked about the commitment of the chambers to the organization. The evenings key note speaker was Dr. Alan Merton, Dean of George Mason University. Dr. Merten spoke noted that leadership requires knowledge, passion and action to be a success. The evening concluded with a champagne toast led by Senator Charles Colgan.

Sponsors of the celebration were Capital: Vanderpool, Frostick & Nishanian, P.C.; Heritage: Cranberry Marketing Associates, Ealy Hopkins & Associates, BB&T, Hendershot, Burkhardt, Reed CPAs, Todos Supermarket; Friend: À la Carte Catering, and In-kind: George Mason University, Cranberry Marketing Associates, Storm Graphic Arts, Metro Sign & Design and Moon Shadow Photography.

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The program, Leadership Prince William, is built around a comprehensive, nine-month curriculum that brings key community information and imparts vital skills to the residents and business leaders of the Prince William area.

Directed by a Board of Regents, Leadership Prince William is a private, non-profit organization with programs designed to prepare existing and emerging community leaders for pivotal positions in business, local government and community affairs. The courses inspire, enlighten, and connect a network of individuals interested in building a strong future for the Prince William community. The skills imparted during this intensive program will help launch graduates into new civic and business opportunities, and will create a positive force for change in the community.

Leadership Prince William is sponsored by Venture sponsors Prince William County Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce and Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce. Foundation Sponsors are George Mason University and Micron Technology.