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LEADERSHIP GWINNETT WRAPS UP YEAR WITH FIRST-EVER DRIVE-THRU GRADUATION



Duluth, Georgia (July 15, 2020) Leadership Gwinnett (LG) ended the year with many firsts as they shifted to meet the new reality of a COVID-19 environment. The LG Class of 2020 embodies the spirit of innovation and resiliency as they learned to thrive even in the toughest situations. Not only was this the first ever drive-thru graduation in LG history, the program also celebrated its largest scholarship contribution ever at well over \$15,000 raised by the Class of 2020. The Leadership Gwinnett Scholarship fund is critical to create more balanced classes inclusive of race, gender, profession, organization type and diversity of thought. These new graduates will continue to build networks, work collaboratively, address challenges, and develop new and viable solutions for community issues.

Class of 2020 graduates and their families participated in the unique drive-thru ceremony safely from inside their vehicles, while volunteers held signs, played music, and delivered graduation plaques and goodies with a contactless option. The ceremony was held at the Infinite Energy Arena parking lot following the Class of 2020's virtual Spring Retreat. There were many cheers and honks in celebration during the ceremony and each graduate had the chance to be honored by their peers, the LG staff, and volunteers. [View more photos.](#)

Leadership Gwinnett prides itself on producing a powerhouse of impactful community leaders each year and a thriving volunteer population that is more likely to serve on boards, volunteer, and give back to our community. 100 percent of alumni are more knowledgeable about the issues and challenges facing Gwinnett County and are 100 percent more connected to Gwinnett's decision makers and leaders, according to a 2018 Deloitte alumni impact survey.

The Class of 2020:

Scott Adams, P.E., Managing Engineer, Brown and Caldwell

Robyn Ali, Executive Director of Marketing & Business Development, Infinite Energy Center

Deven Cason, Director of Economic Development, Partnership Gwinnett

Leroy Chapman, Deputy Managing Editor, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Taffeta Connery, Principal, Sugar Hill Elementary School, Gwinnett County Public Schools

Lewis Cooksey, P.E., Assistant Director, Gwinnett County Department of Transportation

Veronica Cope, Attorney/Owner, The Cope Law Firm, PC

Phoebe Coquerel, Director of Career Experience, Gwinnett Technical College

Aisha DeBerry, Director, Diversity and Community Partnerships, PCOM Georgia

Diane Dierks, Executive & Clinical Director, Center for Navigating Family Change

Amy Doherty, Events & Outreach Manager, City of Suwanee

Matt Elder, Director of HomeFirst Gwinnett Initiative, United Way of Greater Atlanta

Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner, Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners

Laura Gourley, CFO, Annandale at Suwanee, Inc.

Alana Hardison, CFO, Still Waters International Academy

Hayley Howell, Director of Government Relations, Georgia Gwinnett College

Brian Johnson, City Manager, City of Peachtree Corners

Kevin Johnson, Program Director, Family Medicine Residency, Gwinnett Medical Center

Scott Jordan, Market President for NE Metro Atlanta, BB&T

Kyung-Hwa Kim, Performance Analysis & Monitoring Manager, Atlanta Regional Commission

Ben Ku, District 2 Commissioner, Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
James Ledford, Commercial Relationship Manager, United Community Bank
Eric Lusher, Associate/Senior Project Manager, Pond & Company
Robin Mauck, Executive Director, Obria Medical Clinics
Scott Mawdesley, Director of Outreach, 12Stone Church
Barry Mock, Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, City of Lawrenceville
Hope Moeck, Marketing Manager, Eastside Medical Center
Mercy Montgomery, Economic Development Director, City of Sugar Hill
Phillippa Moss, Director, Gainesville-Hall Community Services, City of Gainesville
Babak Mostaghimi, Executive Director of Innovation & Program Improvement, Gwinnett County Public Schools
Josh Osborne, Senior Vice President, Market Executive, Oconee State Bank
Melissa Poole, Branch Manager, AVP, Renasant Bank
Jessica Rantamaki, Business Development Specialist, Geo-Hydro Engineers, Inc.
Ashley Ross, Director of Talent, Wolverton & Associates, Inc., a CHA Company
Kolinda Scialabba, Coordinator of Broadcast Media, Gwinnett County Public Schools
Jordan Shumate, Managing Partner, Shuma Sports
Darryll Stinson, Executive Pastor of Growth Ministries, Life Church International
Gary Stout, Director for Acute Care Services and Urgent Care, Kaiser Permanente of Georgia
Jeff Taylor, Partner, Dead River Ranch Materials, LLC
Margaret Washburn, Attorney and Managing Partner, Margaret Gettle Washburn, PC
Brooke Waters, Program Manager, Leadership Gwinnett
Garland Williams, Special Projects Coordinator, Aflac

“The Class of 2020 is truly the most resilient class ever,” said Lisa Zaken, Executive Director of Leadership Gwinnett, “This is a critical time in history for leaders to be connected and to collaborate across channels. We are proud of the dedication from this class as they have navigated this pandemic. Congratulations Class of 2020!”

If you know someone who would be a perfect fit for Leadership Gwinnett, [nominate them or nominate yourself](#) for the class of 2022. Applications open in January. Ready to get involved now? [Register](#) for our two-and-a-half-day program, Glance Gwinnett, offered this fall.

About Leadership Gwinnett

[Leadership Gwinnett](#)'s vision is a thriving community sustained by an inclusive network of

empowered leaders. Our mission is to educate, equip, and engage diverse leaders and inspire civic involvement. Over 1,200 have graduated from the flagship program, over 650 have graduated from the condensed program, [Glance Gwinnett](#), and hundreds continue their leadership enrichment every year through our alumni programming. Leadership Gwinnett is a proud recipient of the 2018 IMPACT Regional Business Award, Nonprofit Sector, by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

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