

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, November 15, 2011

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**LEAD TENNESSEE ANNOUNCES NEW CLASS OF CURRENT AND EMERGING LEADERS**  
***State Government Developing Talent & Leadership for the Next Generation***

NASHVILLE – LEAD Tennessee, state government’s premier leadership training initiative, announced its upcoming class of 117 current and emerging leaders from 33 departments and agencies from all three branches of state government.

“State government is taking a proactive and assertive approach towards creating a talented pool of leaders that will help lead our state into the next generation,” said Deputy Governor Claude Ramsey. “LEAD Tennessee is a valuable asset in the effort to develop efficient and effective leadership in state government.”

LEAD Tennessee, a dynamic program administered by the Tennessee Department of Human Resources, is a statewide, 12-month development initiative which includes six one-day summits of intense, personally tailored, high impact learning focused on twelve core leadership competencies. The goal of LEAD Tennessee is to increase the state’s leadership bench strength by providing agencies with a continuous pipeline of motivated and prepared leaders that share a common language and mindset about great leadership.

“Encouraging and developing emerging and current leaders is a fundamental requirement for success in any organization. For state government, that requirement is fulfilled in LEAD Tennessee,” said Mark Cate, Special Assistant to Governor Bill Haslam. “The citizens of Tennessee are well-served by this unique and valuable program.” Mark Cate serves as the Executive Sponsor of the Executive Leadership Council for LEAD Tennessee. The Executive Leadership Council consists of agency appointing authorities who offer guidance and leadership insights for the initiative.

Participants learn a combination of behaviors, knowledge and skills that drive effective job performance. This shared leadership language enables leaders across agency lines to increase networking efficiency, directly impacting the state’s workforce and contributing to greater opportunities for resource sharing and problem solving. State government directly benefits by higher productivity, efficiency, and overall improved organizational performance through better-trained leaders.

“The Department of Human Resources is proud to administer one of the most effective and dynamic leadership development initiatives in the country,” said Commissioner Rebecca Hunter of the Tennessee Department of Human Resources. “LEAD Tennessee brings together current and emerging leaders from agencies throughout state government to provide the citizens of Tennessee with a well-developed and well-prepared bench of talent. I join with many across the state in welcoming the incoming class of Tennessee’s next generation of leaders.”

LEAD Tennessee is directly facilitated by the Division of Strategic Learning Solutions (SLS) within the Tennessee Department of Human Resources. Trish Pulley, the division's director and a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources, is a nationally recognized public speaker with over 19 years of leadership experience in both the non-profit and public sectors.

For more information on the Tennessee Department of Human Resources and LEAD Tennessee, please visit [www.tn.gov/dohr](http://www.tn.gov/dohr).

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