

Leading Effectively in the Nonprofit World

First class sets tone for success

By Tom Pearce

“Eighteen participants from various nonprofit groups in McKinney enrolled in this exciting new program,” said Terri Rickets, Chamber president. “The feedback on the quality of the class has just been tremendous. We feel like we are providing training to a unique group of leaders, who may not have access to this type of training on their own.”

“The class far exceeded my expectations,” said Cindy Moreland, executive director of Stonebridge United Methodist Church. “It enlightened me on some very useful, value-added nonprofit leadership techniques that I have already put into action. The enthusiasm and the interaction between the participants was great.”

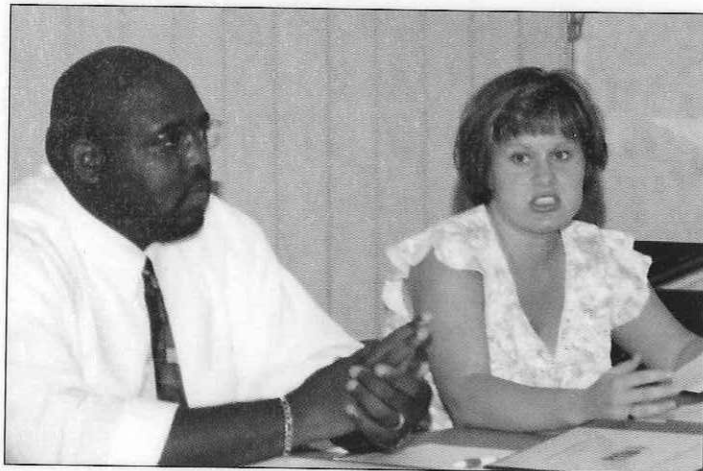
“We established the class with two very specific learning objectives,” said Tom Pearce, president of iLead Consulting & Training and program facilitator. “Our first objective was to sharpen the leadership skills of the participants. The second was to provide networking opportunities for these talented leaders.”

“We built some fun features into the design of the program,” said Pearce. “For instance, during the program we gave each participant ‘15 Minutes of Fame’ — their chance to stand up and describe their organization to the group. We made the program as interactive as we possibly could, asking the group to present and solve problems, and work collaboratively as much as possible. Special pains were taken to ensure that program content did not overlap with the Citizenship McKinney class — just in case people wanted to attend both programs.”

“Perhaps the most interesting feature of the program,” according to Ray Coleman of Tapestry Healthcare, “was the chance to visit the various nonprofit agencies represented in the class. We went all the way from MCDC offices and the Chamber to Stonebridge United Methodist Church, and then from The Red Cross to the YMCA. The range of experiences and the variety of issues my fellow leaders are facing is fascinating,” said Coleman.

“I looked forward to class every Friday morning,” said Lori Villarreal, director of programs for the McKinney Family YMCA. “The class was fast-paced and relevant. All of us walked out of the program with new ideas and new perspectives each week.”

“I felt like I was back in college,” said Cammy Henderson of the McKinney Chamber of Commerce. “Only we were much more participative and interactive as we learned about leadership. This program provided me with lots of interesting new material — and valuable contacts around town — the spirited discussions on fund raising, board development, and volunteer recruitment were outstanding.”



Above, class facilitator, Tom Pearce, leads participants in a team building exercise in front of the American Red Cross building. Below, Ray Coleman (left) and Lori Villarreal participate in one of the informative sessions. Photos courtesy of Tom Pearce.

The McKinney Chamber will sponsor the Leading Effectively in the Nonprofit World program again in January 2004. Classes will be held for 10 consecutive Friday mornings (excluding holiday weekends). Participants will receive a certificate signed by the Chamber and iLead Consulting & Training at the end of the program. If you are interested in enrolling in a future class, or if you have questions about this program, please contact Cammy Henderson at 972-542-0163. ♦

About the author: Tom Pearce is president of iLead Consulting & Training. He has 16 years experience in the corporate world and five in counseling.