

Youth Leadership Montgomery (YLM) is a two-part program based on a partnership between YLM and Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) that provides an experience to develop leadership skills and community awareness for any Montgomery County public or independent high school student entering grades 9-12. For program details, go to www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org.

The following is an excerpt from the graduation remarks about the program by **Marcus Lee**, Sherwood High School junior, that best describes the experience:

"Each of us, walked into this program with a million questions running through his or her mind asking 'Where am I going? What exactly am I going to be doing here? What does it really mean to be a leader? Is this worth giving up my Saturday mornings for?'"

Each of us came, from all over the county, from all different points on the spectrum with a different world perspective. Each of us came, with different goals and aspirations that dictate the changes we want to make, and the footprints we want to leave. Each of us came, with objectives on our minds and ambition in our hearts, to follow through and make something out of this society and make something out of ourselves. Each of us came, as leaders; this program was just the fuel to our pre-existing drive that had taken us thus far.

In this unforgettable experience, our diverse backgrounds and perspectives came together in a melting pot of ideas that spawned a particular closeness among every one of us that cannot be replaced. We have learned that being a leader is not the populace you control, it's not the amount of revolutions you start, and it's not the masses of people that worship you. It's not being the CEO; it's not being the captain of the football team; it's not being the Leader of a country. Leadership is the drive, the focus, the determination, the ambition, the initiative, the hunger, the thirst, the leap, the steps, the hard work, and the passion to make our mark on the World's stage no matter how dynamic it may be.

Leadership is just the pathway to making a difference to benefit people. And with the right skills, the right mindset, and the right passion, we all have the power to move mountains."

According to **Ranjit S. "Ron" Dhindsa ('01)**, the president of the 54-year old extremely successful leadership training program MLW, "There is no greater feeling than enabling and inspiring young people to find their passions, gain confidence, build life skills, and work together to improve their schools and communities."

Leadership Montgomery would like to recognize and thank all the individuals and organizations that made this program a success.

• Program Sponsor:



2009 Youth Leadership Montgomery Graduates

Front row left to right: Jessica Porter, Sherwood High School; Hannah Phillips, Winston Churchill High School; Talia Lieber, Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School; Marina Aparicio, Watkins Mill High School; Macarena Torres-Girao, Watkins Mill High School; Evelyn Luther, Clarksburg High School
 Back row left to right: Marcus Lee, Sherwood High School; Carrie Haslbeck, Col. Zadok A. Magruder High School; Vladimir Rodriguez, Gaithersburg High School; Paola Zuniga, Watkins Mill High School; Edgardo Gonzalez, Gaithersburg High School
 Not pictured: Julia Boudrye, Col. Zadok A. Magruder High School, and Rebecca Kim, Richard Montgomery High School.