



A program of:



media release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

contact: Shelly Megaw, 507.381.2767
smegaw@greatermankato.com

2009 Leadership Delegation Retreat Sparks Ideas and Inspires Cooperation among Area Leaders

Mankato, Minn. (May 1, 2009) – Over the years the Greater Mankato Leadership Delegation (formerly known as the ICLV) has brought community leaders together to seek out innovations and strategies for addressing opportunities and challenges in our region.

On April 26-27, the Greater Mankato Leadership Delegation convened again for a retreat that focused directly on “Strong Leadership during Challenging Times.” Of the 73 community and business leaders who attended the retreat, approximately one third were new to the Leadership Delegation. An additional 35 nonprofit leaders joined the delegation for a portion of the agenda that focused on the importance of collaboration, innovation, shared decision making and smart use of community resources to survive and thrive during a tough economy.

The information-packed retreat included presentations from a distinguished line-up of 26 local, state and national experts, which triggered meaningful conversations about the future of our region. In addition to the relevant agenda, the event also provided an opportunity for area leaders to enhance their working relationships with one another.

“The planning committee had high hopes for this retreat, and our expectations were exceeded by the enthusiasm and productive ideas that came from the delegates throughout the retreat, said Barb Embacher, Vice President of Community Development for Greater Mankato Growth. “In the past few days I’ve been overwhelmed with the number of positive comments I have received from delegates telling me what a worthwhile experience it was for them and our community.”

Together the Leadership Delegation identified the following key priorities for the future:

- Develop and support strong leaders, recognizing that effective leadership and productive relationships among our area leaders is critical to our success.
- Explore ways to reconnect with the City of North Mankato and work collaboratively with other cities in the region.
- Continue to gather the Leadership Delegation, both with local retreats and visits to communities in other parts of the country. Keep the momentum going; use the power of a collective vision of the future.
- Stay focused on Envision 2020 implementation.
- Celebrate the positive achievements and progress in our region.
- Prepare for and embrace increased diversity in our community.
- Share & leverage resources in order to survive and thrive.
- Embrace change by looking for possibilities and opportunities, even during challenging times.

In the coming weeks the Leadership Delegation planning committee will work to turn these priorities into action plans.

For more details on the presentations, photos and a list of delegates, visit www.iclvisit.com.

###