

# DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS - LONOKE COUNTY

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## ABSTRACT

The need to educate our community about leadership is a tremendous responsibility of county agents. Leadership development programs provide benefits to both individuals and the entire community. Leadership programs can assist in identifying issues of community interest, support engagement, build relationships between community-based organizations, and foster new and inspired leaders. Today's population is technology oriented and do not get the opportunity to experience more traditional leadership roles. Tremendous educational opportunities are always present at county, district and state activities. These avenues give the leaders an opportunity to exhibit their leadership skills. One example is the Lonoke County Leadership program, which provides leaders with the opportunity to improve their leadership skills. It is through educational programs that they acquire the knowledge needed to showcase knowledge gained in a community setting in Lonoke County each year. Educational impact of this program is measured through various means; some of which are leadership in 4-H, EHC and Master Gardeners, specifically leadership related projects and assumed leadership roles. Evaluations will continue throughout the life of this program and we would like to share this information with other agents in the NACAA.

## Relevance

Leadership development programs provide benefits to both individuals and the community as a whole. Leadership programs can assist identifying issues of community interest, support engagement, build relationships between community-based organizations, and foster new and inspired leaders.



Lonoke Leadership Graduation

## Highlights

- Leaders Trained-92
- Active Master Gardeners-45
- Citizenship/Leadership 4-H Club members-107
- Community Projects Completed-9
- Leaders Trained Since 2005-352
- Organizations Assisted-7

### Total CED Program Overview

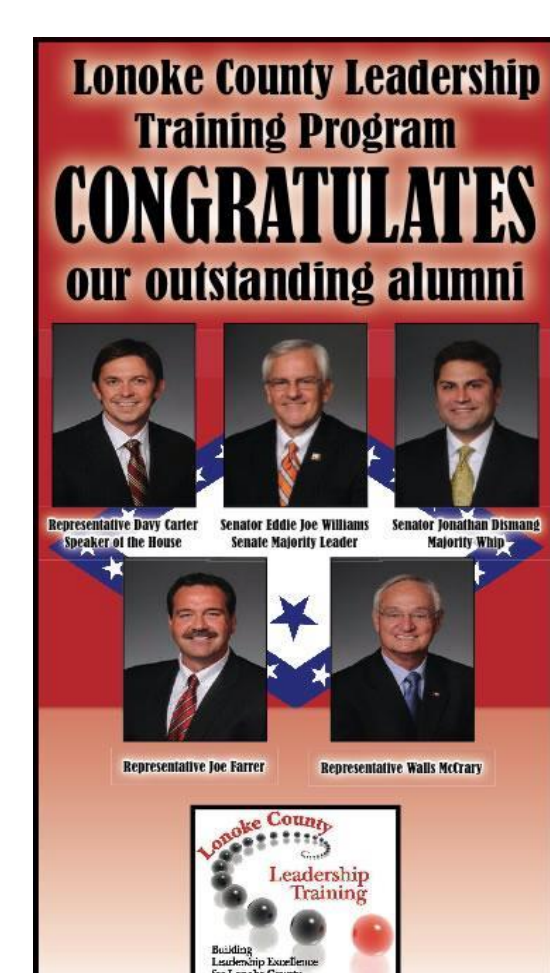
- Educational Contacts-8419
- Volunteers-52
- Value of Volunteer Hours-\$46,104.59

## Results

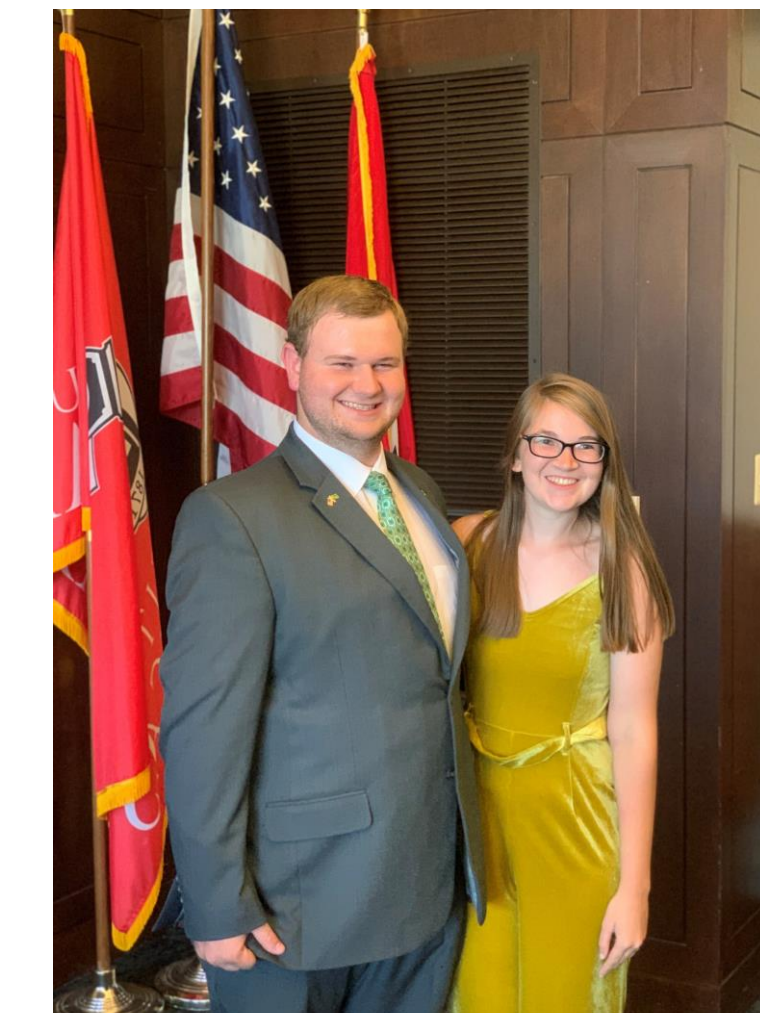
Lonoke Leadership has graduated over 350 community members, including state senators and representatives, district judges, mayors, police chiefs, quorum court members, and other county professionals. These leaders have provided their communities invaluable guidance, expertise, and advice resulting in more effective and efficient government at the state, county and city levels. 84% of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade 4-H Club participants indicated they were a better leader as a result of the 4-H program. Extension Homemakers leaders have worked with 48 members in 6 clubs, and have also recruited 6 new members and established 1 new club. Master Gardeners trained 27 new members and conducted 8 projects.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to all the leaders, volunteers and sponsors that make this invaluable program possible for the youth..



Leadership alumni, donations, presentations and tours.



4-H Hall of Fame-Governor's award finalists above Master Gardener graduation below



## Response

Lonoke County Extension has been instrumental in the development, guidance, and implementation of the Lonoke Leadership program. This past year, 24 community leaders were trained in subjects such as leadership, community development, and entrepreneurship. The 4-H Teen Leader program conducted 6 meetings and 2 workshops, reaching 24 youth. The Lonoke Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade 4-H Club conducted 8 citizenship and leadership meetings with 107 members. Lonoke County Extension Homemakers program conducted 7 leader training for 12 leaders. Master Gardeners conducted 10 meetings for 32 participants.