

Leadership Arlington Welcomes its Newest Class of Young Leaders Committed to Community Involvement

by Betsy Frantz, President & CEO, Leadership Arlington

Leadership Arlington's highlight of the summer is its two week long Youth Program. The Class of 2014 recently graduated in August after meeting at different public, private and nonprofit locations throughout Arlington County, exposing the 28 participants to a diverse array of organizations and providing them the opportunity to meet with local leaders during this hands-on, experiential program.

The Youth Program is designed to enhance leadership skills and awareness of the need for philanthropy, community service and civic participation in rising high school juniors and seniors.

"This program was one of the best learning experiences I have ever been exposed to," said one of the Class of 2014 participants.

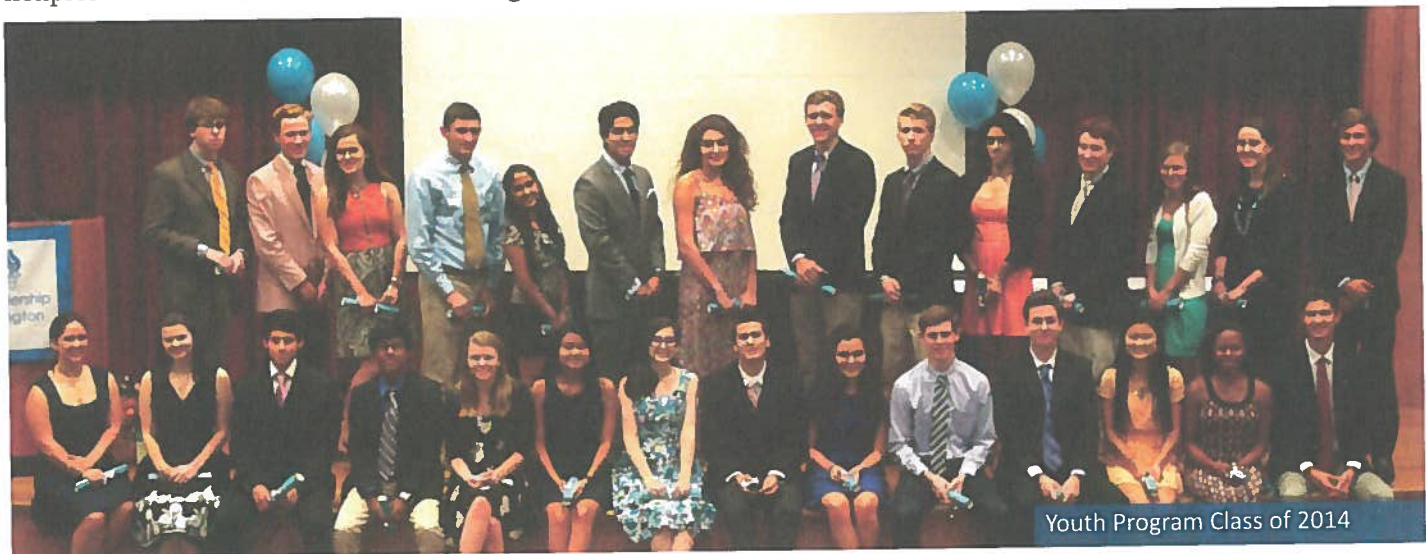
One of the highlights of the Youth Program is its unique "Philanthropy in Action" program session, which allows participants to learn the value of philanthropy through visits to close to 20 local nonprofits in Arlington.

Participants are tasked with choosing one nonprofit to be the recipient of a \$1,000 grant. They develop their own criteria for evaluating each nonprofit and come to consensus about the grant awardee.



A-SPAN check presentation

Leadership  Arlington



Youth Program Class of 2014

This year, the Youth Program Class of 2014 awarded their grant to the **Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN)**. Participant Caroline Verrecchia stated, "Our class felt confident that the donation to **A-SPAN** would be able to make a significant difference." **A-SPAN's** impact on the community greatly impressed the Class of 2014.

Austin Perry, Leadership Arlington's Program Coordinator, runs the Youth Program. Each year, he is impressed by the participants' intelligence and enthusiasm. "The Class of 2014 blew me away with their passion, inclusiveness and desire to make a positive impact in the Arlington community," said **Perry**. "It is my hope that the program will serve as a catalyst for our students to continue their growth as leaders and change makers."

As **Leadership Arlington** moves into fall, it is excited to meet the newest program members – the Signature Program Class of 2015 and Young Professionals Program Fall Class of 2015 – and begin numerous events and trainings! The organization invites you all to participate in any of its events and programs as it carries out the mission of Leadership Arlington "to enlighten, inspire and connect leaders to strengthen our community."