

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Houston Announces 8th Annual Graduation Ceremony from the Learning and Development Center's (LDC) Leadership Institute Program (LIP)

LIP is a citywide program designed to implement leadership and succession planning at all levels of management and supervision throughout the city. This eight-month program culminates in a project week where by all projects are subject to recommendation to the Mayor's office for implementation

Houston, TX – March 16, 2015 – The 8th Annual LIP Graduation Ceremony took place at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2015, at Wortham Theater Center – Grand Foyer, 500 Texas Avenue, in Houston, Texas. This year's graduating class was comprised of one hundred twenty-one City of Houston employees. Mayor Annise Parker spoke at the ceremony, hosted by the City of Houston's Learning Development Center, where she discussed the importance of being a service organization. The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. William McKeon EVP, CSO & COO of the Texas Medical Center. The employee addresses were delivered by Lori Kleuesner, Parks and Recreation (PR) and Gwendolyn Goins, Municipal Courts Department (MCD).

"We certainly were challenged with the difficult task of getting to know our new team members, learn their strengths and weaknesses and effectively complete a thorough analysis of the problem and strategically pull together a detailed presentation in a very short amount of time. The excellent manner in which our team completed the aforementioned task more than exemplified a quote that my father (Robert E. Davis Sr.) taught me as a kid, "Through adversity comes greatness,"" said Ty Davis, Senior Contract Administrator, Municipal Courts Department.

"In my opinion, the investment of time, money and intellect into the development of LIP has been well worth it. While the beginning portion of the course covered topics that were more of a refresher for me, as we progressed, those latter classes built onto that foundation, and in the end resulted in a perfectly choreographed ensemble of training. LIP should be required for everyone in COH leadership," said Gwendolyn Goins, Communications Officer, Municipal Courts Department (MCD).

The program officially launched in 2008, and the number of LIP graduates continues to grow exponentially. To date, the LDC has graduated nearly one thousand City employees. As the program grows in the future, the LDC will continue to foster this ever-expanding workforce of mid-level managers, senior-level managers and front-line supervisors, spotlighting their tremendous successes and working to cultivate more leaders in the public sector.

"LIP has been a great networking experience. The departments within the City run so independently of each other, it makes it difficult to meet others employees outside your own department. This class has afforded us the opportunity to network with our colleagues and find out who the 'movers and shakers' are that we can call on for assistance," said Lori Kleuesner, Administrative Coordinator, Houston Airport System (PR).

Event photos and additional information about the graduation can be found on the LDC's website at <http://www.houstontx.gov/ldc/>

About the Learning and Development Center

The Learning and Development Center (LDC) is a strategic development and employee performance improvement organization that offers comprehensive training solutions that significantly affect performance and institutional outcomes. The LDC's consultancy is comprised of an experienced team of professionals with the knowledge and capabilities to design and implement strategies that help our clients' achieve their goals. The LDC's primary focus is to provide transformational learning programs that enhance the skills, job competencies, and improve performance and overall satisfaction for the City of Houston's workforce.

For more information, please visit the LDC website at <http://www.houstontx.gov/ldc/>

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