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LeadingAge New York Graduates IGNITE Leadership Academy 2025-26 Class

Latham, NY – LeadingAge New York is pleased to announce the graduation of the tenth class of the IGNITE Leadership Academy.

During a graduation held at LeadingAge New York’s Spring Leadership Conference in Saratoga on May 20th, 22 rising stars in the aging and long-term care services field were recognized for completing this yearlong leadership development program:

- Carrie Burns, Environmental Services Manager, Woodland Pond at New Paltz
- Christine Caplan, Assisted Living Administrator, St. John’s Living
- Terika Carney, Director, Digital Solutions, Nascentia Health
- Christopher Cassata, Assistant Vice President of Finance, Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation
- Nabaska Casterlin, Assistant Administrator, Finger Lakes Center for Living
- Lindsay Constantine, Acting Administrator, Heritage Ministries
- Kelly DePonto, Lead Nurse Practitioner, Elizabeth Seton Children’s Center
- Joshua Dineen, IT Operations Manager, Jewish Home
- Erica Gentile, Assistant Administrator, Canterbury Woods
- Lakshmi Gopalan Poranki, Director of Rehabilitation Services, UHS Senior Living at Ideal
- Allie Hammonds, Administrative Services Manager, Canterbury Woods
- Jason Irish, Director of Resident Life, Woodland Pond at New Paltz
- Julia Joachim, Administrator, Wartburg-Berkemeier Living Center
- Ashlie Kohlhagen, Executive Director, Montabaur Heights at Brothers of Mercy
- Andrea Lalley, Healthcare Administrator, Good Shepherd Village at Endwell
- Jessica Levie, Associate General Counsel, The New Jewish Home
- Patricia Marques Lima Vieira, Nurse Manager, BSN, RN, Kendal at Ithaca
- Mary Kay McKinney, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Village at Endwell
- Ana Monteverdi, Clinical Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Ozanam Hall Nursing Home
- Allysa Olsen, Health Center Administrator, Fox Run at Orchard Park
- Jennifer Sauginas, Community Residences Site Supervisor and Case Manager, Loretto
- Patricia Terranova, Administrator, St. Luke Health Services

The LeadingAge New York IGNITE Leadership Academy is a professional development program designed to cultivate and strengthen senior living leaders across New York State. Inspired by the national LeadingAge Leadership Academy, the program focuses on values-based leadership, relationship building, collaboration, innovation, and continuous learning. Through sessions on authentic leadership, change management, partnership building, and well-being, fellows develop their own leadership style while gaining practical tools to lead within their organizations and the broader aging services field. A signature component of the program is the *Leaders in Residence* experience, which gives fellows the opportunity

to learn directly from experienced leaders and visit LeadingAge New York member organizations throughout the state. To learn more about the program, visit the [Leadership Academy website](#).

Established in 2013, the IGNITE Leadership Academy was created by LeadingAge New York members who had participated in the national LeadingAge Leadership Academy and recognized the need for a state-based program dedicated to developing the next generation of leaders in New York's nonprofit aging services sector. Since its launch, the Academy has helped inspire, support, and empower over 200 leaders committed to advancing high-quality care, services, and housing for older adults.

Patricia Tursi, Chief Executive Officer, Elizabeth Seton Children's and LeadingAge New York Board Chair, said, "It is a great privilege to recognize and celebrate your extraordinary achievements as leaders in aging services. Your commitment, perseverance, and forward-looking vision embody the highest ideals of our profession. Together, you are shaping the future of aging. Congratulations to our LeadingAge IGNITE Class of 2026!"

Sebrina Barrett, President and CEO, LeadingAge New York, said, "Congratulations to the graduates of the IGNITE 2025-26 class! We are honored to be a part of your leadership journey, and we are inspired by your passion and dedication. We applaud you, and we look ahead to the many contributions you will provide in the years to come. We wish you the very best, and we encourage you to stay involved in LeadingAge New York, because we need strong leaders like you to help guide the future of long-term care."

About LeadingAge New York

Founded in 1961, LeadingAge New York is the only statewide organization representing the entire continuum of not-for-profit, mission-driven, and public continuing care, including home and community-based services, adult day health care, nursing homes, senior housing, continuing care retirement communities, adult care facilities, assisted living programs, and Managed Long-Term Care plans. LeadingAge New York's 350-plus members serve an estimated 500,000 New Yorkers of all ages annually.

For more information on the LeadingAge New York Leadership Academy, please visit www.leadingageny.org or contact Diane Darbyshire at ddarbyshire@leadingageny.org or 518-867-8828.

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