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LeadingAge New York Graduates IGNITE Leadership Academy 2023-24 Class

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

During a graduation held at LeadingAge New York’s Annual Conference in Saratoga on May 21st, 20 rising stars in the aging and disabilities services field were recognized for completing this yearlong leadership development program:

- Maria Abelleira, Director of Human Resources, Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home, Inc.
- Sarah Bohnstadt, Director of Housing, United Church Manor
- Tyler Brennan, Assistant Controller, Masonic Care Community
- Nicole Cash, SkillSpring Director, The New Jewish Home
- Rachel Dalton, Assistant VP of Business Development, Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation
- Steve Denil, Resident Services, Flushing House
- Vincent Dunston, Executive Director-Trier Woods Apartments, Director of Leasing and Development-BOM Center, The Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus
- Samantha-Jo Felice, Director of Social Work, Kendal at Ithaca
- Amanda Frederick, Vice President, Health Plan Operations, Nascentia Health
- Lindsay Hanneman, Nurse Manager/RN, Elizabeth Seton Children’s Center
- Yolanda Harvard, Assistant Director of Nursing, St. John’s Home
- Julia Johnson, Director of Health Information / Quality Assurance, St. Luke Health Services
- Annalyse Komoroske Denio, Senior Policy Analyst, LeadingAge New York
- Mary Lou Letina-Land, Director of Marketing & Sales, Fox Run at Orchard Park
- Jo-Ann Pinder, Resident Relations Manager, The Osborn
- Tonya Roser, Director of Senior Living Operations, Community Wellness Partners
- Kanyea Sayon, Operations Manager, Loretto
- Christine Shippers, Assistant Director of Dining & Nutrition Services, St. Ann’s Community
- Lori Vail, Administrator, Loretto
- Chris Zoellick, Chief Technology Officer, Jewish Senior Life

The IGNITE Leadership Academy program explores key leadership concepts and skills such as values-based leadership, appreciative inquiry, emotional intelligence and many other topics designed for personal leadership development and transformation, all of which have taken on renewed importance in the field as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Session themes focus on developing one’s own unique leadership style, leading change and innovation, collaborations and partnerships and creating a culture of wellbeing. A key component of the IGNITE Leadership Academy is the *Leaders in Residence*, during which the fellow learns from other experienced leaders in the field. The experience is enhanced through visits to various LeadingAge New York member organizations statewide. Each graduate is experimenting with what they have learned, to put their learning into action and give back to their organizations. To learn more about the 2023-24 class and what they learned from this experience, see the [Leadership Academy website](#).

Stuart B. Almer, President and CEO, Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, and Chair, LeadingAge New York Board of Directors, said, “Warm congratulations to the graduates of our 2024 IGNITE Leadership Academy. I’ve met many of you personally – and heard more about you from colleagues – and I am confident that our industry is in good

hands for the future. Your energy, enthusiasm and dedication are an inspiration, and I encourage you to not only apply what you've learned in your own facilities and careers, but also to use it to advocate for our industry in these challenging times. Best of luck to all."

James W. Clyne Jr., President and CEO, LeadingAge New York, said, "Congratulations to the IGNITE 2023-24 class. Now more than ever, our field needs strong, committed leaders like you. I encourage you to stay engaged with your new networks, and with LeadingAge New York. On behalf of LeadingAge New York, I wish you all the best."

The IGNITE Leadership Academy was established in 2013 through the dedication of a number of LeadingAge New York members who had attended the national LeadingAge Leadership Academy. They felt strongly that this valuable program was needed to inspire, nurture and empower leaders from New York's non-profit sector as they continuously strive to improve the exemplary care, services and housing provided to the state's large aging population.

LeadingAge New York is the only statewide organization representing the entire continuum of not-for-profit, mission-driven and public continuing care, including senior housing, nursing home, adult care facility, continuing care retirement community, assisted living, home care and adult day care and community services providers. LeadingAge New York represents over 400 organizations dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging. We advance policies, promote practices and conduct research that supports, enables and empowers people to live fully as they age.

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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