



Ashtabula, OH - LEADERSHIP Ashtabula County wrapped up their 29th year of service in the community on August 1, 2018 at their annual meeting held at St. John School in Saybrook.

The breakfast, attended by 160 partners, alumni and supporters of LEADERSHIP Ashtabula County, celebrated several award-winners and concluded the business of the 2017-2018 year. Major announcements for the organization included the awarding of the Ohio Community Connectors Grant for \$134,847.52.

Both the Ashtabula Arts Center and Cristal were recognized for their support of the community and the LEADERSHIP Ashtabula County mission with Community Partner awards. State Representative John Patterson was also recognized with a Community Partner award.

Dean Susan J. Stocker, Ph.D. of Kent State University Ashtabula was presented with the Marta K. Stone Excellence in Leadership Award for her commitment to growth and collaboration in Ashtabula County.

Members of the LEADERSHIP Ashtabula County Signature Class of 2017 presented a recap of the lighthouse restoration project, which was the culmination of their group project focus while participating in the Signature program.

"It was a great pleasure to work with our leadership team and the ALPRS (Ashtabula Lighthouse Preservation and Restoration Society) board to help revitalize such an iconic feature in the Ashtabula Harbor," 2017 Signature class graduate Alex Czayka said.

Executive Director Laura E. Jones also introduced new LEADERSHIP Program Managers Kelli Jones and Stacy Stevenson to gathered supporters. Jones, of the 2013 LEADERSHIP class, joins the organization from Grand River Academy and will be continuing the YOUTH LEADERSHIP program with an exciting year of activities and learning for this year's participants.

"I am thrilled to be joining the LEADERSHIP Ashtabula County team in this role," Jones said. "I see the progress Ashtabula has made in the past few years and it's great to be able to share the many wonderful things going on in the area through the YOUTH LEADERSHIP program. This upcoming year will be fun in so many ways and I'm excited for the many places we'll go and the people we'll meet."

Stevenson is joining the LEADERship Ashtabula County team from Case Western Reserve University and will be kicking off the LEADERship LAUNCHpad program for area LEADERship students in their senior year of high school while also growing the numerous outreach programs within the LEADERship organization.

“As a long-time member of the Ashtabula community and watching it evolve and grow over the years, I was overjoyed about the opportunity to give back in a meaningful way,” Stevenson said. “Working with county students has been a longtime goal of mine and we have so many great things planned for the coming year!”

LEADERship Ashtabula County is entering its 30th year of programming. Adults interested in the Signature program can submit their applications at [www.leadershipac.org](http://www.leadershipac.org).

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