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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
SALUTES LEADERSHIP ANNE ARUNDEL'S 2009 GRADUATES**

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 26, 2009) – Nearly 60 graduates of Leadership Anne Arundel's (LAA) Executive Leadership Series (ELS), Flagship Program and Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) will be saluted at LAA's Tribute to Community Leadership Tuesday, June 30 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park, MD. The theme for the program year is "Strengthening Our Community, Embracing Change."

Tribute to Community Leadership is Leadership Anne Arundel's signature event that celebrates the work of its program participants. Patrick Lee, LAA's Interim Executive Director, said, "This year's event has been reinvented to reflect a new format to better connect new graduates with past graduates. It is less formal and promotes more social opportunities and networking for a true celebration of our emerging community leaders."

The event will begin with a VIP reception at 5:00 p.m. in the green room adjacent to the Chesapeake Arts Center main auditorium. Select restaurants and caterers from Anne Arundel County will showcase their signature dishes and provide a taste of the region's best for the 200 attendees. The VIP program will begin at 6 p.m. and includes sponsor recognition and a reflection from each of the three graduating classes. The \$75 ticket includes hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, admittance to the graduation ceremony and dessert social following the ceremony. Tickets are limited to the VIP event.

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The graduation ceremony will be held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Arts Center main auditorium. Approximately 375 individuals are expected to attend the formal graduation ceremony that will recognize each graduate of the three Leadership Anne Arundel Programs. All attendees are invited to the coffee and dessert social with entertainment that follows the graduation ceremony. Tickets for the graduation ceremony and the dessert social are \$20.

Three special awards will be presented during the graduation ceremony. The Jack Harden Community Champion Award will provide a full scholarship to LAA's Flagship Program to a graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy. The Patrick M. Lee, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Leadership Anne Arundel will honor a person who has given tirelessly of his or her time and expertise to LAA this year. The LAA Distinguished Graduate will be awarded to an exceptional LAA graduate who has made significant contributions for the betterment of the community.

Tribute sponsorships are available at levels of \$3,000, \$1,500, \$750 and \$500. Proceeds will benefit the Arthur Ebersberger Scholarship Fund, which provides partial scholarships to qualifying Flagship Program candidates for the class of 2010.

Deadline for sponsorships and ticket reservations is Monday, June 22, 2009. For information, go to www.leadershipaa.org, or e-mail info@leadershipaa.org. To purchase a ticket to the event, call LAA at 410-571-9798.

The vision of Leadership Anne Arundel is to develop and nurture community trustees who improve the quality of life in Anne Arundel County by convening diverse stakeholders, bridging their divides, and facilitating resolutions for the common good. Leadership Anne Arundel's mission is to provide people of diverse backgrounds with the education, resources and networks necessary to become successful proactive leaders.

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