



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

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L.A. AREA CHAMBER, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP NETWORK JOIN FORCES

New partnership will unite the region's most acclaimed civic leadership development programs: Leadership Southern California and Leadership L.A.

LOS ANGELES--The Southern California Leadership Network (SCLN) and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce announced today a new partnership that will bring together the region's two principal providers of civic leadership training for mid-career and senior executives from the public, private and non-profit sectors. The partnership, beginning January 1, 2006, will expand and strengthen programs to develop networks of leaders dedicated to regional collaboration and problem solving. The Chamber operates Leadership L.A., founded in 1987, and SCLN operates Leadership Southern California, founded in 1989.

"The L.A. Area Chamber has always been committed to the long-term stewardship of this vibrant, complex region—a region that calls for a deep understanding among business executives about the interdependence of jobs, transportation, schools, crime, land use and housing in a regional context," said Rusty Hammer, president & CEO of the L.A. Area Chamber. "Effectively being a steward requires a cadre of informed and networked leaders to work on the challenges we face. For many years, Leadership L.A. and SCLN have been the two principal providers of leadership training in the region, and by joining forces, we have an opportunity to gain greater synergy and provide the highest quality of leadership development."

"For 16 years, SCLN has trained and nurtured a true network of more than 500 emerging leaders who now have the experience, the tools and the contacts generated through our program that enable them to tackle the critical issues of our region," said Steve Juarez, chairman of SCLN. "This partnership will enable SCLN to build upon this foundation and expand the network of individuals helping to improve the quality of life in the nearly 400 interdependent communities of Southern California."

Under the partnership, the Chamber will provide administrative and marketing support to SCLN and help launch its newest program, The Colleagues, a partnership with American Leadership Forum to engage the region's most senior leaders to help solve tough policy issues, develop their regional leadership skills, and forge bonds that will become a collaborative leadership infrastructure in Southern California. Chamber representatives will join the SCLN Board of Directors, which oversees the Leadership Southern California and The Colleagues programs and will also direct the efforts of

Leadership L.A. SCLN will continue as an independently operating not-for-profit organization. Its regional mission, experiential focus, and non-partisan standing remain the same.

SCLN was founded in 1989 with a seed grant from the Ford Foundation to help address the need for regional collaboration and operates an experiential leadership training program covering Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. Prominent graduates of SCLN's Leadership Southern California program include U.S Small Business Administration Administrator Hector Barreto, Los Angeles Police Department Assistant Chief George Gascón, Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees Member Mona Field, Los Angeles Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Vincent M. Bryson, Automobile Club of Southern California Chief Financial Officer John Boyle and Southern California Edison Vice President of Community Involvement Beverly Ryder.

In addition to the L.A. Area Chamber, other founding members of SCLN include the Southern California Association of Governments, Automobile Club of Southern California, National Conference of Community and Justice, League of Women Voters of Los Angeles, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Jewish Federation and Town Hall Los Angeles.

ABOUT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Founded in 1989, the Southern California Leadership Network's mission is to develop and sustain a productive network of exemplary leaders in the business, government and community sectors to take on the critical challenges facing the five-county Southern California region through its signature program, Leadership Southern California. For more information visit www.leadershipnetwork.org.

ABOUT LEADERSHIP L.A.

A program of the L.A. Area Chamber founded in 1987, Leadership L.A. has sought the finest emerging leaders from all segments of the Los Angeles County, preparing them for decision-making positions and cultivating them for community service.

ABOUT THE L.A. AREA CHAMBER

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information visit www.lachamber.org.