

Leadership Lake Oswego swings into action

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Photo Credit: SUBMITTED PHOTO: SEAN MINOGUE - Lake Oswego City Manager Scott Lazenby swings through the trees during Leadership Lake Oswegos two-day retreat in Newberg.

Sure, it can be a real jungle out there. But that doesn't mean you're likely to see City Manager Scott Lazenby or school Superintendent Heather Beck swinging from the trees anytime soon.

Or does it?

Lazenby and Beck were among two dozen civic officials, business owners and other professionals who kicked off the 28th year of Leadership Lake Oswego last week with a two-day retreat at the Tilikum Retreat Center in Newberg. The event included classroom instruction, team-building exercises and a challenge course that had participants racing across a lake in canoes, scrambling across a log suspended 42 feet in the air and swinging out over a river on cables attached to the trees.

The goal: to build relationships and forge connections between community-oriented leaders who can help shape and direct the future of Lake Oswego.

“Discovering and developing emerging leaders is the essential work of every community,” said Keith Dickerson, who in addition to his role as pastor at Hope Community Church is also the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce and director of its Leadership Lake Oswego program. “Doing this essential work effectively requires that we create a yearlong experience that allows for relational connections that span a broad community spectrum.”

In addition to the two-day retreat, participants in Leadership Lake Oswego will meet one day a month from October to June, exploring a variety of topics that range from leadership styles, human relations and strategic planning to problem solving and servant leadership. Classes are taught by Dr. Marci Nemhauser, a longtime educator and executive coach who specializes in leadership, communications skills and workplace ethics.

The program also serves as an introduction-of-sorts to different facets of life in Lake Oswego, with days devoted to public safety, the small-business community, arts and culture, and other topics.

Graduates of this year’s program will return next year to guide and help develop content for the next class of leaders. Serving as tri-chairs for 2014-15 are attorney Elliott Dale, Battalion Chief Jim Doane of the Lake Oswego Fire Department and compliance specialist Eric Dottarar.

In addition to Lazenby and Beck, this year’s class includes LOSD Board vice chair Bob Barman, Lake Oswego Hunt manager Katie Purdy, Lucid Dog Training owners Katie Brower and Chris Wojda, and an eclectic mix of bankers, attorneys, real estate brokers, educators and other professionals.

The next session of Leadership Lake Oswego will meet Oct. 16. To learn more about the program, go to www.lake-oswego.com/Leadership-Lake-Oswego.

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