



CENTER FOR NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT
strong nonprofits build strong communities

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For Immediate Release

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CENTER'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM EMPHASIZES DIVERSITY

Dallas, Texas – The **Center for Nonprofit Management** is now accepting applications for the 2007 **Dallas Blueprint for Leadership** program. The program trains qualified, committed, skilled professionals of an ethnic minority origin to serve on nonprofit boards. Interested persons are invited to join a free Meet and Greet Information Session on **Thursday, March 1** at 5:30 pm at the Center for Community Cooperation at 2900 Live Oak Street in Dallas.

The **Dallas Blueprint for Leadership** program was born out of a need for nonprofits to increase the diversity of their boards of directors and improve their cultural competency. Blueprint provides a way for boards to be more culturally relevant and reflective of the communities they serve, and works to hone the skills of high caliber minority professionals through 42 hours of classroom training and group activities. To date, more than 200 culturally diverse board members have graduated from the program and have gone on to serve on boards of local nonprofit agencies.

“The list of [Blueprint] alumni represents a Who’s Who of minority leaders in Dallas/Ft. Worth,” said **Nicolas Pena, Jr.**, Dallas Blueprint for Leadership Advisory Board Chair. “In addition to the leadership skills Blueprint develops, candidates have the added feature of being matched with a nonprofit board. The Blueprint for Leadership Program is a springboard for the minority leaders of the future.”

In addition to benefiting the Dallas community at large, the **Dallas Blueprint for Leadership** program also pays high dividends to participants; allowing them to gain a wide variety of personal and professional expertise, including:

- A curriculum of quality training in board leadership taught by expert faculty
- Graduates are matched with nonprofit boards which complement their interests and skills
- Recognition by the nonprofit community as leaders and examples of good corporate citizenship
- An increased exposure to the support and ongoing training of the Center for Nonprofit Management
- Long-term networking and camaraderie opportunities through the Blueprint Alumni Association

– more –

Since 1980, the Center has endeavored to build a stronger community by increasing the performance and impact of nonprofit organizations through education programs, technology services, board training and consulting services. **Dallas Blueprint for Leadership** contributes to this goal by assisting nonprofit boards to better reflect the communities they serve.

“An analysis of our current demographics tells us that the face of our client is changing and programming must reflect this,” said **Cynthia B. Nunn**, Center president. “One of the ways nonprofit organizations build capacity is through the social capital of its board. If there is a significant gap between the board and the populations they serve, their capacity is greatly diminished. The Dallas Blueprint for Leadership program does a service to the nonprofit community by endeavoring to appropriately reflect the population served.”

Applications for the Dallas Blueprint for Leadership program will be accepted until March 23, 2007, and are currently available online at www.cnmdallas.org/blueprint. To register for the free Meet & Greet Information Session on Thursday, March 1, visit www.cnmdallas.org or call (214) 826-3470. For more information regarding the program, please contact Stacey Bruenning at (214) 826-3470, ext. 235 or bruening@cnmdallas.org.

The mission of the Center for Nonprofit Management is to build a stronger community by increasing the performance and impact of nonprofit organizations. Fulfilling its mission since 1980, the Center for Nonprofit Management annually helps the staff and boards of more than 1,300 nonprofit organizations develop better management and governance skills through consulting, technology and education and training programs.

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