

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. Announces Its Eighth Class of Veteran Leaders**

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. (LPInc.) is proud to announce its eighth Community Leadership Course for Veterans™ (CLCV™) cohort. For the next six months, the Community Leadership Course for Veterans™ program will engage 21 participants who are post-9/11 veterans representing a variety of United States Military branches.

The CLCV™ program is aimed at leveraging the skills and experiences of post 9/11 veterans by exposing them to new leadership networks and opportunities for service to the Southwestern Pennsylvania community, and fast-tracking their success in the region as high-potential leaders. Participants have the opportunity to meet with regional business and community leaders, establish a greater understanding of regional business and nonprofit issues and trends, and utilize their leadership skills to accomplish a community impact project for a local nonprofit organization. Bi-weekly sessions cover topics such as corporate landscape, nonprofit landscape, history of Pittsburgh, savvy networking and more. The knowledge and associations obtained through CLCV™ can provide committed participants access to the platforms needed to take on leadership roles throughout our region.

A list of the CLCV™ VIII cohort is as followed:

- Bradley Alan, Marine Corps Reserves - Mercer County of Pennsylvania
- Robert Bergamasco, Air Force Reserves - Highmark Inc.
- Jonathan Bliss, Air Force - PNC Bank
- John Eshenbaugh, Army - Ansys
- Jessica Harrison, Army- Ansys
- Justin Holsinger, Army - Patina Construction & Development
- Deidra (Dee) Hubay, Marine Corps - Duquesne University
- David Lauterbach, Army - K&L Gates LLP
- Robert Madaras, Navy - UPMC

- Joshua Marino, Army - Human Engineering Research Laboratories, University of Pittsburgh
- Trevor Mathey, Army - UPMC
- Paul McDonald Jr., Army - Allegheny County
- Brandon McFarlane, Army Reserves - Regional Housing Legal Services
- Zack Moran, Air Force - Pittsburgh Knights
- Nicholas O'Brien, Army - PA Army National Guard
- Dustin Pierce, Army - US Steel
- Hillary Shipkowski, Army - UPMC Health Plan
- Lisa Skinner, Air Force - UPMC Health Plan
- Olivia Smith, Air Force Reserves, Robert Morris University
- Carl Spindler, Marine Corps - DFL Legal
- Matt Tokarczyk, Army Reserves (IRR) - Highmark Health

Aradhna Malhotra Oliphant, LPInc. President & Chief Executive Officer, commented: "The Board of Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. joins me in congratulating these emerging veteran leaders who are clearly poised to take on leadership roles in service to the Western Pennsylvania community based on their past military experiences, and thanks DSF Charitable Foundation for making this year's program possible."

Nick Beldecos, Executive Director of DSF Charitable Foundation, added: "Through CLCV™, Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. at once serves veterans of the US military and our regional community. Veterans are national assets. They return to communities with a special set of attributes and skills. CLCV™ provides opportunities for engagement that enable veterans to best bring these to bear in civilian life, to their benefit and that of the region."

In 2013, LPInc. was invited by local philanthropies to play a role in the regional Veterans' Initiative. Recognizing the largely untapped leadership potential of newly returned veterans, LPInc. launched the Community Leadership Course for Veterans™ (CLCV™). In keeping with Leadership Pittsburgh's strengths-based philosophy, CLCV™ leverages the skills and knowledge of high-potential veteran leaders in service of the betterment of the broader Pittsburgh region.

## **About Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc.**

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. (LPInc.) is the foremost multi-disciplinary leadership identification, connection and civic engagement organization in southwestern PA. As an independent nonprofit organization, we are committed to enriching a diverse group of leaders to serve the region through our selection-based programs: Leadership Pittsburgh, Leadership Development Initiative, and the Community Leadership Course for Veterans. Programs' curricula address critical and timely topics, engage the business sector in projects and leadership positions benefitting civic sector organizations and provide alumni the platform to tackle regional issues in order to act as catalysts for positive change. As an organization, we are committed to helping the greater Pittsburgh region embrace creativity in its thinking and build bridges of understanding across segments. LPInc. has cultivated an impressive graduate network of over 2,400 civic leaders working to maximize the potential of our community.

For more information on the organization and programs offered by Leadership Pittsburgh Inc., visit [www.lpinc.org](http://www.lpinc.org) or call (412) 392-4505.

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.: *We Open Eyes, Minds and Doors.*

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