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LeadingAge New York Graduates IGNITE Leadership Academy 2019-20 Class

Latham, NY – LeadingAge New York is pleased to announce the graduation of the seventh class of the IGNITE Leadership Academy.

During a graduation held during a special online ceremony on Dec. 2nd, 20 rising stars in the aging and disabilities services field were recognized for completing this yearlong leadership development program:

- Victoria Bournival, Employee Experience & Organizational Development Specialist, St. Ann's Community
- Michael S. Cali, Director of Operations, Springside at Seneca Hill
- Deborah Cameron, Administrative Director/Compliance Officer, St. Mary's Center, Inc.
- Jacqueline Colafemina, Marketing & Business Development Manager, LeadingAge New York
- Chantel Foster, Resident Life Director, St. John's Meadows & Brickstone by St. John's
- Kara Gemmill, Director of Independent Living, The Nottingham
- Valerie Johnson, Administrator, Heritage Ministries
- Lindsay Lacey, RN, BSN, Director of Admissions, The New Jewish Home, Manhattan
- Caryn Leggio, Nurse Manager, Elizabeth Seton Children's
- Katherine McHugh, RN, Administrator, United Methodist Homes – Hilltop Campus
- Judy Nicsevic, Registered Dietitian, Van Rensselaer Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation
- Elizabeth Parsons, Director of Human Resources, Fort Hudson Health System
- Kaylin Peterson, Director of Philanthropy, Jefferson's Ferry Foundation
- Theresa Pratt, Social Services Director, St. Luke Health Services
- Farrah V. Rampat, Office Manager, Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation
- William Robinson, Assistant Administrator, LNHA, St. Ann's Home
- Eric Rochman, Director of Strategic and Performance Excellence, VillageCare
- Stacy Salmon, Dining Director, St. John's Meadows and Brickstone
- Rebecca Stock, Registered Nurse Clinical Supervisor, Nascentia Health
- Christina L. Villanueva, Chief Financial Officer, United Home for Aged Hebrews DBA United Hebrew Geriatric Center

The IGNITE Leadership Academy program explores key leadership concepts and skills such as values-based leadership, appreciative inquiry, emotional intelligence and many other topics designed for personal leadership development and transformation, all of which have taken on renewed importance in the field during the COVID-19 pandemic. Session themes focus on developing one's own unique leadership style, leading change and innovation, collaborations and partnerships and managing one's energy and priorities for maximum performance. A key component of the IGNITE Leadership Academy is the *Leaders in Residence*, during which the fellow learns from other experienced leaders in the field. The experience is enhanced through visits to various LeadingAge New York member organizations statewide. Each fellow puts their action into learning to give back to their organization through an Action Learning Project. A summary of each of the projects is available on the [Leadership Academy website](#).

The IGNITE Leadership Academy was established in 2013 through the dedication of a number of LeadingAge New York members who had attended the national LeadingAge Leadership Academy. They felt strongly that this valuable program

was needed to inspire, nurture and empower leaders from New York's non-profit sector as they continuously strive to improve the exemplary care, services and housing provided to the state's large aging population.

Karen Zobel, LCSW, LNHA, CEO/Administrator, The Community at Brookmeade and Chair, LeadingAge New York Board of Directors, said, "Congratulations to the graduates of the IGNITE 2020 Leadership Academy! This is an especially challenging time and true leaders rise during difficult times. They strive to do what's best for those depending on their critical guidance and strength. Thank you for your dedication to aging and long term care services."

James W. Clyne Jr., President and CEO, LeadingAge New York, said, "Congratulations to the IGNITE 2019-20 class! Our field needs strong, committed leaders like you. On behalf of LeadingAge New York, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors."

LeadingAge New York is the only statewide organization representing the entire continuum of not-for-profit, mission-driven and public continuing care, including senior housing, nursing home, adult care facility, continuing care retirement community, assisted living, home care and adult day care and community services providers. LeadingAge New York represents over 400 organizations dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging. We advance policies, promote practices and conduct research that supports, enables and empowers people to live fully as they age.

For more information on the LeadingAge New York Leadership Academy, please visit www.leadingageny.org or contact Diane Darbyshire at ddarbyshire@leadingageny.org or 518-867-8828.

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