



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Suffolk Leadership Academy**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 26, 2010**

A graduation dinner will be held tonight at 5:30 at the Suffolk Hilton Garden Inn for the Eleventh Session of the Suffolk Leadership Academy. Tonight's graduates include: Nathaniel {Nate} Boyd of City of Suffolk – Fire & Rescue, Vera M. Bristow of Farmers Bank, Tyrone Brown of City of Suffolk – Public Works, Janet V. Carr of City of Suffolk – Police Department, Victoria {Tori} Dail of Nansemond – Suffolk Academy, Domenick L. Epps of Team Jesus Music Group, Steve L. Ezzell of Western Tidewater Regional Jail, Charles R. Jolly of City of Suffolk – Fire & Rescue, Paul Lasakow of Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, Cynthia {Cindy} Matthews of BASF Group, Barbara N. Midkiff of U.S. Coast Guard SILC, Tanya D. Scott of Western Tidewater Regional Jail, Betsy Bagnell Totten of TowneBank and Rhonda P. R. Woody of ForKids, Inc.

A special event at this year's ceremony will included the presentation of the 2010 Dr. George Barnett Award of Leadership Excellence. This award was named for the late Dr. George Barnett, the founder of the Suffolk Leadership Academy. The winner of that award will be announced tonight.

The Suffolk Leadership Academy is designed to develop and strengthen leadership skills for citizens desirous of serving the community in various roles as well as to foster a better understanding of the workings in the city and state government.

Sessions included instruction in the theory and the practical application of leadership by Mr. W. Ross Boone. The topics this year also covered: History of Suffolk, Local Government, Economic Development & Regionalism, Tourism, Agriculture, Education and Volunteerism. A special trip to the General Assembly in Richmond and a tour of Suffolk was also included this year.

Over 200 students have graduated from the Suffolk Leadership Academy thus far. The Leadership Academy is sponsored by Suffolk Tomorrow and the City of Suffolk.

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