

Leadership

TRI-COUNTY

OCTOBER SESSION

Leadership Tri-County Class of 2017's October session was focused on the justice system in the tri-county area. Unfortunately, the Berks County Prison had to cancel our scheduled tour of their facility. We thank the Reading Eagle and the Santander Arena for accommodating us on short notice.

The class arrived at the Reading Eagle to start their day. **Nicole Brambila**, Investigative Reporter, talked to the class about typical stories she would cover and how long story development typically takes. **Lauren A. Little**, Staff Photographer, talked about her range of assignments she has had to cover – from special events, accidents, sporting events, and much more. **Ashley Arnold**, NIE Coordinator/Promotions Assistant, led the class on a tour of the facility. One of the most recent additions is a new press which consolidates packaging and distribution.



The class made the 'front page' of the Reading Eagle! Photograph on paper was taken by Lauren Little, Reading Eagle Staff Photographer.

Next stop was the Santander Performing Arts Center. **Tammy Dahms**, Marketing and Group Sales Manager, gave a tour of the renovated 1870's building. Tammy showed the class the elegant auditorium/stage and the ballrooms located on the top three floors and described types of events the center has held.

Next class members traveled to the Berks County Services Center Building where they visited with **Common Pleas Judge Scott Lash**. Judge Lash spoke to the class about the Juvenile Court System and answered many questions on Berks County's juvenile judicial system.

After lunch, Leadership Tri-County stopped at the Pottstown Police Range before returning to Pottstown. This consisted of a demonstration with the Chest-Mont Emergency Response Team (CMERT). As the response team was going through exercises, **Cpl. Steven Morrissey**, CMERT tactical operation commander, explained what was happening. The end of the demonstration included an obedience session with one of the dogs from the K9 Unit as well as showing the range of equipment that is used. The Class was able to tour CMERT's armored vehicle.

The day ended at the Chamber Office for a presentation on the Pottstown Camera Project from **Brianna Ringwood**, Montgomery County Assistant District Attorney. Brianna explained the camera system that Pottstown is hoping to implement to discourage crime in the community.

At the end of the October session, the class was able to walk away with a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the justice system in the tri-county area.



The Leadership Tri-County Class of 2017 with the CMERT armored SWAT vehicle.



Brianna Ringwood, Montgomery County Assistant District Attorney, gave the class an overview of the Pottstown Camera Project.

Meet the Class



Howard Brown

Howard Brown, Program Officer for Schools and Community Development of the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation, has worked in the tri-county area for a little under 1 year. He is married to his wife, Lucia Mieres Redondo, and they have a son, Dawson. His parents are Joe and Eileen Brown. Howard enjoys audiobooks, bike riding with his family, mentoring student athletes, and anything basketball. His business role model is Steve Jobs.

Howard received his BS in Business Administration from Villanova University. His personal business philosophy is: "If you get on a treadmill, and I get on a treadmill, there are only two possible outcomes. 1) You will get off the treadmill first. 2) I will die on that treadmill. In other words, you may be smarter than me. You may be more talented. But I will not be outworked." – Will Smith.

After returning home from living abroad for many years, Howard believes the Leadership Tri-County program will be a huge asset. It will help him learn the legislative, economic, and social landscape of the tri-county area, and help him connect with the Chamber's extensive network. He has heard great things from many alumni of the program and is excited for the opportunity to be a part of this year's class. The Leadership Tri-County Class of 2017 has set the record for the 'island exercise' at Fellowship Farm – Howard is most looking forward to this year's class being the best class in the history of the program!



Craig Colistra

Craig Colistra is the Program Officer for Recreation & Health at the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation. He has worked for the Foundation for a little over 7 months. He is married to his wife Angie and has two sons – Michael, 5, and Leo, 2. Craig enjoys fresh food, environmental justice, community engagement, and public spaces.

Craig received a Ph.D. in Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management from Clemson University. His business role model is Henry Ford. Craig's personal business philosophy is to "Persist until you are able to succeed."

Craig feels that in order to contribute to the growth and progress of a community, it is important to be aware of the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in that community. While participating in the class, he is looking forward to having a greater connection to the community he works in.

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