

THE LEADERSHIP MONTGOMERY EXPERIENCE



by *Jacqueline Audige ('09)*

I followed a trusted friend advice and took the leap of faith to apply for Leadership Montgomery (LM) program, and I did not know what to expect. I am the founder and CEO of Aumazo, Inc a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower rural girls in Cameroon by providing them high school education. Despite my limited financial resources because I used my own funds to start Aumazo, Inc., I was able to participate in the program because of the financial aid I was awarded.

Jacqueline Audige

Leadership Montgomery has been a great opportunity for me to learn, share, grow, change, and strengthen my own leadership skills. I came to understand that leadership is a process by which an individual influences others to accomplish an objective effectively and efficiently. It does not come naturally though, but only through hard work. Discussion about issues and challenges facing the county, brought me home and helped me achieve my integration in the Montgomery County where my family and I have lived for 18 years.

Leadership Montgomery has inspired me to wish for stars as well. Today more than ever, I truly believe that my "beacon of excellence in nonprofit management" goal for Aumazo, Inc, is within reach. I recognize however that I cannot command the excellence; instead I will continue building on the strong and good character that I developed and strengthened during the nine-month program as a leader.

Leadership Montgomery opened my mind by putting things in perspective for me. A leader who brings great value to the organization is a person of honorable character who makes people want to achieve greatly instead of just accomplish an objective or a task.

Finally, Leadership Montgomery opened my heart. The nature of the program alone is a hidden treasure for spiritual encounters. The program is about people. Each month for nine months, I looked forward to meeting my classmates. It was my break opportunity from a busy life and an opened door reflection on me. During the program, I rediscovered a new me by looking inward to examine myself. The benefits are truly great and immensurable.

On June 20th, I walked on stage with a sense of pride and responsibility not only to myself but to my family, my neighbors and people that I am serving through my organization. Although the program concluded with the commencement ceremony, the wealth of information and my continued membership in the organization are new seeds planted in my life as an individual and as a leader.

20th Anniversary Celebration of Leadership

Leadership Montgomery (LM) celebrated its 20th Anniversary on June 20 with over 450 guests in attendance. With the commencement of the core and senior LM classes of '09, LM's core, senior, youth, and executive programs have over 1,500 graduates.

At the celebration, LM recognized and thanked the people and organizations who contribute their time, talent and treasure. Leadership Montgomery is proud of its accomplishments and impact on the community to bring together current and emerging leaders to make Montgomery County a better place to live and work.

Access Montgomery taped the event, and the show times are Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m., and Monday, July 20, at 5:22 p.m., on Channel 21.



The 17th Annual Sandy Spring Bank Outstanding Leader Award, Leadership Montgomery's highest honor, was presented to **William G. Robertson ('02)**, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, Inc.

(Left to right) Nominator Gigi Goodwin ('04), president and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce; Bill Robertson who got a standing ovation; Darryl Lesesne ('06), senior vice president and chief internal auditor, representing the award sponsor Sandy Spring Bank; and Esther Newman, founder and executive director of Leadership Montgomery.



(Left to right) MC Board of Education Member Judy Docca ('02) with Paul Rosiak, Rockville High School; Alan Sternstein ('99), representing the award sponsor; Kara Loyd, Northwest High School, with MC Councilmember Nancy Navarro ('09); Kara Karpman, Richard Montgomery High School, with MC Council president Phil Andrews; Aleah Bowie, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, with MC Senate Delegation chair Richard Madaleno and Brittney Johnson, Damascus High School, with MC House Delegation Chair Brian Feldman.

The Youth Community Leadership Awards recognize and reward outstanding high school seniors attending public, private or parochial schools in Montgomery County. The award sponsor for the past 13 years is the law firm of Shulman Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, PA. The five students selected to receive a \$1,000 award were escorted across the stage by an elected official.

LEADERSHIP PARTNERS*



We want you to know®



BAE SYSTEMS



The Gazette



SHULMAN ROGERS GANDAL PORDY & ECKER, P.A.

Sanford & Doris Slavin Foundation



* Donors of \$5,000 and up

Katalin Gimes
Editor
Leadership Montgomery

Michael L. Macl ('05)
President, Leadership Montgomery

Esther B. Newman
Founder & Executive Director
Leadership Montgomery

5705 Arundel Ave., Suite 200
Rockville, Md. 20852
301-881-3333 • fax: 301-881-3799
Web site: leadershipmontgomerymd.org