

# LEADERSHIP FORUM

*A Summary of the 2011 Leadership FORUM*

## **January 2011 Leadership FORUM**

The first Leadership Forum session was held on January 11. Faculty Advisor, Jon Buggy, AIA, began the session with a discussion on the definitions of leadership, as described by Max De Pree in his book *Leadership is an Art* and in Kouzes & Posner's book *The Leadership Challenge*. The session ended with a presentation by Kathy Cooney, EVP and CAO of HealthPartners.

## **February 2011 Leadership FORUM**

February's Leadership Forum session focused on Motivation & Inspiration, Engagement, and Generational Differences. The discussion was led by Debby Magnuson, Director of *Development Services at Career Partners International, Twin Cities*. One participant said, "The subject of "motivation" is highly compelling. It is important to question what drives us. This is a well chosen subject matter at this juncture in the Leadership Forum – inspiring."

## **March 2011 Leadership FORUM**

The March Leadership Forum focused on Communicating and Connecting. The discussion was led by Dianne Moore, a partner in *Excelerated Leadership*, a business-consulting firm. Dianne had great insights into communication styles and according to Forum participant Rebecca Krull Kraling, AIA, she "provided an excellent tool box of methods to use that will be incredibly valuable; particularly regarding giving feedback and the importance of asking questions."

## **April 2011 Leadership FORUM**

The April Leadership Forum session made a shift from the first three sessions and focused leadership specifically for the profession of architecture. Who better to lead this discussion than Jim Cramer, president of the Greenway Group, author, and Founding Co-Chair of the Design Futures Council. Jim's presentation explored ways in which the profession is experiencing a changing context and how that may impact leadership success. He related how attitudes and strategies must change to meet the new context in order to improve performance. Jim's session was informative, inspirational and encouraged each participant to consider the changing contexts discussed and challenged each to consider the question, "What are you changing?"

## **May 2011 Leadership FORUM**

The fifth of six sessions for the 2011 Leadership Forum happened in May. The topic was knowing when and how to lead. The group of 14 was divided into 3 groups. One group discussed "When did I have an opportunity to lead but chose not to?". One group discussed "When did I take on an opportunity to lead and it turned out successful?". And the third group discussed "When did I take on an opportunity to lead and it did not work out?" Following these discussions, each group reported back to the rest the common themes they discovered and signals that indicate when it is time to lead and how to lead. This group discussion was followed by leadership stories from Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Ed Kodet, FAIA, and Judith Martin. The session was very successful. Leadership Forum participant Paul Lawton, AIA, LEED AP, said, "I thought it was a great experience sharing and reflecting on our previous successes, failures, etc. It helped to put meat on the bones."

## **June 2011 Leadership FORUM**

AIA Minnesota recognized 14 individuals who completed the second annual Leadership Forum program at a reception on June 14 at AECOM in downtown Minneapolis. Nearly 40 people attended, including members of the AIA Minnesota Executive Committee, members of the Forum Advisory Board, the Minnesota Architectural Foundation, Forum guest speakers, candidate sponsors and the program graduates. All were there to show support to the graduates and to reflect on the learning that occurred and the focus of the Forum. The focus of the Forum is on defining the parameters and attributes of leadership. Each of the six sessions focused on a different aspect of leadership including Self-Visioning; Motivation and Mentoring; Communicating and Connecting; Trends and Transformation; and Knowing When and How to Lead. The final session was led by Cheryl Leitschuh, a leadership development consultant. She led the group in exercises addressing Application and Implementation. The session concluded with each participant presenting their leadership message to the group.