

LEADERSHIP *bismarck-mandan* *alumni association*

"Good leadership consists of showing average people how to do the work of superior people"
-John D. Rockefeller



Tonya Holmstrom - Class of 2010

Tell us about yourself:

I am happily married to my wonderful husband Shane. My step-son Alex is 12 and is a mini-version of Shane. There is never a dull moment when the two of them are in the same room! My parents, Dean and Cindy, still reside in our home area of Cleveland, ND. I have one older sister Tammie Roth. She lives in Park Rapids, MN with her husband Charles and my nephews Dakota and Dawson.

I have worked at Eide Bailly LLP since 2005. I am a Tax Senior Manager and love what I do! Financial consulting, tax planning, business succession planning, and all things in between. It is such a great joy to assist our clients in their financial endeavors.

After graduation, I was the student member of the LBMAA board. I truly enjoyed working with and learning from the other alumni members who were involved. I transitioned into the role of President in 2012. We enjoyed putting together to keep the leadership spirit flowing. It is great to see the Alumni Association demonstrating continuous creative ideas and events.

Leadership translates from team work. Without a team, results are not created in the light that they should be. There are no leaders if there are no team members.



One of the most rewarding things that I have done is to be involved in our communities. If there is one thing every person should strive for it is this... be involved in whatever capacity that you are able. From working out at the local YMCA, to running charity races, to joining the Optimist Club, it has truly been gratifying. Currently, I am President of the Bismarck Optimist Club, serve on the St. Alexius Foundation Cabinet and am part of the United Way Fundraising Cabinet.

What advice do you give those who want to be in Leadership Positions?

Go for it! Don't hold back...there is no right way or plan. Take small steps at leadership, and they will translate into leaps and bounds. Find something you are passionate about and promote it... it is as simple as that to be a leader.

My mother always said "Life isn't fair." Having learned that at an early age I then realized that persistence and determination was key. Life's lessons are the most valuable thing we each can take away from our leadership journey. Use each lesson to build on the next venture!

Along the way, Carleen Shilling was one of my most cherished mentors at Eide Bailly. She once gave me a card that quoted Gandhi, **"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."** I think this is a quote that all future leaders must demonstrate.

Thank you, Tonya, for your thoughts on leadership, growth and community involvement.

If you know a LBMAA member you would like to highlight in the next newsletter, e-mail jenn@ubldesign.com.

FEATURED LBMAA MEMBER

The Leadership Program Project -25 Years Ago

In light of the 25th anniversary of the LBMAA, our featured project is the development of the Leadership Program itself. From the Prospectus of Leadership Bismarck-Mandan, the following was identified as "the Purpose" for establishing our organization:

Leadership Bismarck will prepare members of the community by strengthening their skills and broadening their awareness, to be effective, progressive community leaders (civic, social or political). It will build a network of individuals who will support, with their time, money and voice, progressive actions by community organizations and the public sector.

Be sure to attend the Leadership Graduation on May 21st to celebrate 25 years of the Leadership Bismarck Mandan Program. The keynote speaker planned for the event is:

Lt. Governor Drew Wrigley



Upcoming Events to "Sharpie" into your Schedule:

May 21st @ 11:30am (Seven Seas)
Leadership Graduation

May 30th @ 2:45pm (Lewis & Clark Riverboat)
Missouri River Cruise Fundraiser

June 9th, 2014 @ 10:30am (Hawktree Golf Course)
Annual Chamber Golf Scramble

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant."

-Max DePree

FEATURED LEADERSHIP PROJECT