

AFCEA EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

AFCEA Leadership Forum Is a Winner

Seldom in any venture, especially a new one, does everyone involved win. However, AFCEA has achieved this feat with its new AFCEA Leadership Forum. Launched in September 2007 as a pilot program by AFCEA's Strategic Development Committee, the AFCEA Leadership Forum is an opportunity for 24 rising information technology professionals to meet together to learn leadership styles, principles and techniques and to experience primary-source case studies from senior leaders. Two active members of the Strategic Development Committee, Scott Suhy independent consultant, and Charlie Givans of Booz Allen Hamilton, developed the concept and were the coordinators of the pilot course.

The big idea was to tap proven leaders with strong ties to AFCEA either as members of the board of directors or through extensive experience with the organization and invite them to participate in events to help rising information professionals become better leaders. Suhy and Givans recruited Lt. Gen. Jack L. Woodward, USAF (Ret.), Accenture, and Barry Rhine, Northrop Grumman, to create a steering committee to develop and execute this project. The AFCEA Educational Foundation embraced the concept immediately.

The format for the AFCEA Leadership Forum is to conduct six 1.5-hour sessions led by an experienced professional in the information technology field. These sessions are not for attribution to encourage the most frank discussions and a free flow of ideas and experiences. The featured speakers share real leadership challenges—successes as well as failures. Each session is followed by an informal reception in which students get to know each other better and interact with speakers one on one. Some members of the AFCEA staff also attend these receptions, giving the students the opportunity to meet the people responsible for AFCEA events, the pages of *SIGNAL* Magazine and the scholarship awards.

With the structure set, Gen. Woodward led recruitment of the following speakers for the pilot course:

- Vice Adm. Herbert A. Browne, USN (Ret.), past president and chief executive officer (CEO) of AFCEA International and former deputy, Space Command
- Dr. Ralph W. Shrader, chairman and CEO, Booz Allen Hamilton, and a former chairman of the board, AFCEA International
- Lt. Gen. Henry D. Raduege Jr., USAF (Ret.), chairman, Deloitte Center for Network Innovation; former commander, Defense Information Systems Agency; and member of the AFCEA International Executive Committee
- Dr. J.P. London, executive chairman and chairman of the



AFCEA Leadership Forum participants for spring 2008 included the following: (inner circle, l-r) Dorothy Simeona, Wray Varley, Vince Prutch, Abigail Stoddart, Karen A. Williams and David Kapusta; (middle circle, l-r) Linda Chappel, Greg Bourdelais, Karl Spinnenweber, Tamera Jontz, Brian Mizelle, Jason Rupinski, Mark Tatum, Bradley Canel, Andrew Black and Charlie Schoenberger; (outer circle, l-r) Lisa Belt, Rick Roach, SheRon Randolph, Rob Beckmeyer, Dennis Lewis and Paul Remick. Not shown are Jim Kelly and Marc Langlois.

board, CACI International, and member of the AFCEA International Executive Committee

- Vice Adm. Jerry Tuttle, USN (Ret.), president and CEO, J.O.T. Enterprise LLC, and member of the AFCEA International Executive Committee
- Lt. Gen. Albert J. Edmonds, USAF (Ret.), chairman and CEO, Edmonds Enterprise Services; former commander, Defense Information Systems Agency; and former chairman of the board, AFCEA International.

For the pilot, members of AFCEA's board of directors were invited to nominate students to take part in the course. Within two weeks of the announcement, all of the seats were filled. The classes were conducted in AFCEA International's board room on Mondays, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., for six consecutive months.

On February 11, after the last session with Gen. Edmonds, the class members were honored at a reception where they received class photographs and certificates from Gen. Edmonds and Kent R. Schneider, AFCEA International president and CEO. The reception included the students' sponsors, members of both AFCEA's board of directors and its Strategic Development Committee, and AFCEA and Educational Foundation staff.

Shortly into the pilot program, the concept was deemed a clear success. As a result, the second AFCEA Leadership Forum will launch March 3. The coordinators for this course are Givans and Maj. Gen. William Russ, USA (Ret.), Raytheon Company. To nominate an individual for this course or for more information, contact the AFCEA Educational Foundation at frainbow@afcea.org.