



- **Develop Leaders**
- **Build Networks**
- **Cultivate Community**

A Catalyst for Positive Change in Rural Texas

Partnering to Strengthen Rural Communities

Through Leadership Development at a Local Level

Start with a Sense of Gratitude

Thankful to the rural communities in which
Texas Rural Leadership Program (TRLP) has partnered.

Attitude: This is where we live! This is who we are!!



The Story of Rural Texas

A negative past or present does not have to be
our future.



- First organized in 1989
- Associated with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Partnered with Texas A&M University Public Partnership & Outreach
- 501(c)3 nonprofit organization
- Based in College Station, Texas with Statewide Purpose

About TRLP



- Focuses on increasing the human capital in rural communities by cultivating a sense of community
- Provides customized facilitation and workshops for rural communities/counties
- TRLP Leaders-In-Action Workshop Series is a 12-15 month commitment per site with a one-time fee of \$5000 per site.
- TRLP is networked with other rural resource providers.

As Your Partner



Success Stories in Our Communities

Building and Sharing OUR Best Stories, with Current Truths in Mind

What will the compelling story be for your community, that you will want to shared that will be an inspiration for others?



Where we start...

Taking time to explore the times and the local history, focused upon behaviors of people needed for a greater outcome is important.

In These Times: Self often comes first; so we keep a “we” mindset in all we do.

What are the core values of the community?

Can we observe them? Can we name them?

Do the values of those most engaged align with a vision for the place?

Heart, Mind

What you feel, what you think, what you do.

How well do you listen to others in your own community/county?

What will drive positive change?

What will cause resistance to positive change?



TRLP Leaders-In-Action Participants Come From:

- Wide-assortment of neighborhoods
- More than one community in the county
- Faith-based organizations
- Schools
- Businesses
- People everyone knows in the community
- Civic organizations
- Emergency services/Hospital districts
- Charitable groups/agencies
- Government agencies

Leaders-In-Action Workshop Participants



TRLP Leaders-In-Action Audience:

- Individuals desiring to learn and expand their leadership potential
- Age is not a factor
- Primary target audience: Adults
- High school youth could be added with permission (would need to add an insurance policy)
- Local businesses and organizations sponsor employees/members to participate

Leaders-In-Action Workshop Participants



- Deliberative Dialogue
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Servant Leadership
- Asset-Based Community Development
(Identify capital available to the community)
- Project Management
- Change Agency



The Workshop Curriculum

- Introductory Meeting
- Identify Local Facilitators
- Train Local Facilitators
- Identify Local Participants
- Complete the Workshops Series
- Complete the Demonstration Project



The Leader - In - Action Workshop Process



- Complete 7 Workshops
- Process for Project Selection
- Select Demonstration Project
- Complete Demonstration Project
- Make a Measured Difference in the Community

The Demonstration Project

Want it quick

Want it now

Want MY idea

Want it MY way



Our Attitudes in Decision Making

The Demonstration Project: Showcases that we can work together
and that we can bring results at a local level.

Feeling collected

Feeling grounded

Feeling noticed

Feeling together in decision making



Results-Driven with a New Feeling

Rural Texas Matters.

Feeling marginalized vs mattering

Use a participatory process as a collective effort to engage others.

How inclusive can we be?
Who is not at the table?



Drivers to a greater collective

Anticipate what will drive the process.

Know our WE – Internal and External to our community/county.

Be honest, friendly but not invasive, be perceived as an ally, listen, care, be present, know your resources, bring a positive energy, take time to express your thoughts, refocus self as part of the WE; again, listen to others, make decisions, together.

Who needs to be in our first TRLP Leaders-In-Action group?

Resisters to a greater collective

I can do it myself.

Not knowing the history.

The “people environment” getting in the way.

Not bringing things back to center (in self and external to self)

So much CHANGE; too focused on deficits in the community.

Self-Worth-Proofing instead of Asset-Based Decision-Making

Mitigate resisters; use your drivers

What's Your Local Brand?

It's not what you know, it's who you know, right?
Not entirely, it is also how you want to be known.

For what could your community/county be known?

Keeping folks together

with a newly engaging intent of moving forward, together

Is our “WE” committed, trained, and action-oriented?

Our hope and expectation is that a second, third, & fourth group completes the TRLP Leaders-In-Action Workshop Series(momentum sustained)



Human touch is still needed. We cannot lose the sense of WE in rural Texas.

Never have a regret in how we treat others.
There is a need for us to work together, for the common good.



It is not just about the
person/people you are
serving. Bringing YOU.

It's about your bringing your very alert self to the processes.
Can others feel your presence? Can they feel your care and expertise?

Texas Rural Leadership Program Leaders-In-Actions Workshops

Demonstration Project Examples

Grimes County

Back-to-School Health and Safety Day

Haskell/Knox Counties

Haskell City Park Clean-Up and Beautification Effort

Long-term Vision and Fundraising Plan for City Park Improvements

Bee County

Rebuild Ropes Course

Community Health Garden

Lee County

Signage of Local Interest Spots



Texas Rural Leadership Program Leaders-In-Actions Workshops

Demonstration Project Examples

Liberty County

Flooding issues (27 months of flooding)

Developed plan, including an assessment of current conditions and strategies to guide future decisions on transportation systems, drainage systems, community facilities, economic development, housing, and parks

Matagorda County

Participate in ongoing Community Conversations program

Robertson County

Developed Center for Community Youth Activities in stabilizing neighborhood

First annual Hearne Crossroads Hometown Festival

First Hearne Community Health Resource Fair

Upshur County

Creating community “Sit-a-Spells” with Big Brothers Program



Capturing a new reality for the community/county.

Encourage the good new collective stories.
What do you bring to the story?

Knowing that discourse and argument are tools to a better future, when working with others. Learning to agree to disagree can bring greater success.

Do it because you want to
TOGETHER.

Do it because it is right.

Rocket your community/county, through a new sense of what's possible, and having the skill to work through differences.. Know self, know others, care and – DO.

Seeking more, finding something worthwhile together, feeling a part of something bigger, seeing who else is involved/engaged.

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Let us be your leadership development partner that will work well with you.

Our TRLP Leaders-In-Action Workshop Series Timeline:



Sign agreement:

Create list of community meeting invitees:

Host community meeting:

Name workshop facilitators:

Train workshop facilitators:

Create workshop participant list and invite:

Decide on workshop meals/meeting budget:

Host first workshop:

Have list of full workshop series dates/times:

Complete workshop series:

Host workshop completion celebration/certificate ceremony:

Have demonstration project named:

Have demonstration project funded:

Have demonstration project completed:

Host demonstration project completion ceremony:

Start second facilitator team and second set of workshops: