Pearland – Friday, October 24, 2014 the Leadership Pearland Class of 2014-2015 participated in the second event that is part of the Pearland Chamber of Commerce nine-month program designed to enhance and motivate their potential for civic leadership and commitment to the Pearland community. This all-day session of events, entitled “Your Leadership Does Make a Difference,” began with attending the Pearland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors monthly meeting, an introduction to the Chamber functions, learning about other organizations that promote Pearland and traveling to learn about Pearland businesses and organizations. Class member Seth Thompson of AG CM, Inc. said, “I am pleased to learn that Pearland has organizations working to promote our city to attract new businesses and tourists, while working on retention and expansion of businesses already located here.”
The Leadership Pearland Class of 2014-2015 consists of: Brian Castille (Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc.), Donna Coneley (Memorial Hermann), Fay Watson (Keep Pearland Beautiful), Jacob Williamson (Frost Bank), Jim Johnson (Pearland Chamber of Commerce), Kevin Murphy (Triad Retail Construction), Mark Smith (The Law Office of Mark Smith, PLLC), Marylyn Harris (Harrland Healthcare), Preston Phillips (Amegy Bank), Rodney Porter (Kelsey Seybold Clinic), Seth Thompson (AG CM, Inc.), Wendy Del Bello (Alvin Community College) and Clay Herndon (Freese and Nichols, Inc.).

The Leadership Pearland Class witnessed first-hand how the Pearland Chamber Board of Directors makes decisions and works to promote an environment for local trade and commerce and enhance economic growth for its members and community. Following the Board meeting, the Leadership Pearland members met with Chamber of Commerce staff to learn about membership opportunities, activities and benefits of belonging to the chamber. The chamber works to build a community of business and partners that work together to ensure a healthy business climate and quality of life for the Pearland, Texas area.

After a tour of the Commerce Center the class visited both the Pearland Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) and the Convention and Visitor Bureau of Pearland (CVB). Class members learned how both of these organizations promote our city to their very different audiences. The PEDC enhances our community’s economic vitality through the attraction, retention and expansion of primary employers, while the CVB is a division within the City Of Pearland, City Manager’s Office that promotes and coordinates tourist related activity within the City of Pearland.

During lunch sponsored by The Chamber class members met with Gary Bucek, Business Consultant with the San Jacinto College Small Business Development Center (SJC-SBDC). Gary Bucek shared his experience of building a business in Pearland and discussed the SJC-SBDC’s numerous training opportunities available to people interested in starting or improving their small business.

The Leadership Pearland class spent the rest of the day visiting owners and staff with the following successful businesses in the Pearland community: Coder for Rent (and Coder Camps), Merit Medical and Gartner Coatings. Class Members learned about the history, services and operations of these area businesses as well as the benefits they have received from being a member of the Chamber. “As a Small Business Owner in Pearland, it is inspiring to visit innovative Pearland businesses, (Merit Medical, Coder for Hire and Gartner Coatings), as a member of Leadership Pearland,” said class member Marylyn Harris of Harrland Healthcare. “The onsite visits to the PEDC and CVB gave me insight into the strategic growth plan for Pearland and the robust Pearland community. Priceless.”

“Merit Medical’s facility was impressive,” said Mark Smith a member of Leadership Pearland class of 2014-2015. He continued with “It’s encouraging that Pearland businesses are growing and planning for future growth.” Merit Medical has a building with over 100,000 square feet with infrastructure in place to easily expand in the future.
The Leadership Pearland class will continue to meet monthly to discuss other aspects of leadership, including an in-depth exploration of city government, our education in Pearland, Brazoria County leaders, a trip to the Texas legislature and our nation’s capitol in May. These events will move the class toward completing the objectives to develop and form relationships, stimulate understanding of forces affecting the development of the community, learn the history of Pearland, and promote involvement of the class members in a range of civic and community affairs.

For more information regarding Leadership Pearland, please contact Carol Artz-Bucek, President/CEO at carol.artz@pearlandtexaschamber.us.

As the voice of business, the Pearland, TX Chamber of Commerce creates and promotes an environment for trade and commerce through strategic partnerships and advocacy to enhance the economic growth for members and community.

The Pearland Chamber of Commerce is located in The Commerce Center, 6117 Broadway, Pearland, Texas 77581. For more information call (281) 485 –3634.

www.pearlandtexaschamber.us
Pictured Left to Right: Rodney Porter, Fay Watson, Marylyn Harris, Preston Phillips, Jacob Williamson, Seth Thompson, Melissa Black of the Pearland Economic Development Corporation, Kevin Murphy, Clay Herndon, Brian Castille, Wendy Del Bello, Mark Smith

Pictured Left to Right: Rodney Porter, Brian Castille, Clay Herndon, Seth Thompson, Jim Johnson, Fay Watson, Ken Rossy of Gartner Coatings, George Gartner of Gartner Coatings, Andrew Yarov of Gartner Coatings, Marylyn Harris, Preston Phillips, Kevin Murphy, Wendy Del Bello, Mark Smith