



# Fifth Third Bank Sponsors New West Coast Leadership Minority Scholarships

By Caroline Monahan

The West Coast Leadership program has been helping to develop community stewards since 1988. The nine month program gives class participants in-depth opportunities to study community and business issues ranging from economic development, to government, to health and human services, to name a few. To date, over 750 people have participated in West Coast Leadership, and the current class consists of 40 individuals.

New this year are two minority scholarships for the West Coast Leadership program, underwritten by Fifth Third Bank. Community Bank President Scott Lubbers is a graduate of West Coast Leadership and expressed his excitement over this new scholarship program. “Our team at Fifth Third is grateful to have such a strong Chamber and leadership program in this community. The minority scholarships Fifth Third provided for this year’s West Coast Leadership class align nicely with our belief that we play a key role in creating holistically stronger communities. It has been so encouraging to hear the momentum around these scholarships and an excitement within the community among those who would like to participate in the future.”

One of the recipients of this year’s scholarship is Reyna Masko, a Friend of the Court Investigator for Ottawa County. Said Reyna, “I feel honored and thankful to have received the Fifth Third Minority Scholarship for the West Coast Leadership Program. Ottawa County’s minority populations are rapidly growing and the need to develop minority leaders is essential. The West Coast Leadership Program allows people to learn leadership skills and empowers them to participate and get involved in the community to make a positive impact. Through their sponsorship, Fifth Third Bank ensures that we are not only developing future minority leaders, but also allows others in the program to get to know people of diverse backgrounds, have a deeper understanding of what diversity really means, and most importantly learn to view their workplace and community through a different lens.”



Reyna Masko



Scott Lubbers

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