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Urban Land Institute Michigan Announces the Kick-Off of The Larson Center for Leadership

ULI Michigan's nine-month program will educate, inspire, and transform the next generation of real estate and land-use leadership in Michigan

SOUTHFIELD – Urban Land Institute Michigan is proud to announce The Larson Center for Leadership, a formal curriculum program designed to help train and mentor the next generation of real estate and land-use leaders in Michigan. The program is named for the late Robert C. Larson, a nationally recognized and respected Michigan real estate professional, non-executive chairman of Larson Realty Group, and former chair of the ULI Foundation.

The mission of The Larson Center for Leadership is to cultivate leadership development by informing a select group of emerging industry leaders as to the transformative dynamics currently emerging statewide, and promote engagement in the process. Ultimately these individuals will continue or further expand their professional reach into the real estate and development industries while leveraging ULI Michigan's principles and practices to the benefit of the state and its future economic growth.

Similar programs have been successfully implemented within other ULI District Councils in the past years, including Washington D.C. and Atlanta. The ULI Seattle District Council will also be starting its own version of the program this year.

“The District Council leadership centers, such as ULI Michigan's Larson Center for Leadership, are a key part of the program of work for the Larson Leadership Initiative. Bob's goal was to empower ULI's members with leadership skills to deliver the ULI Mission, to infuse leadership DNA in ULI's members,” said Michael Horst, Senior Vice President of the Urban Land Institute's Larson Leadership Initiative, “The goal is to develop tomorrow's leaders who will implement ULI's mission in the local region. With five District Councils now doing these nine-month programs, we have reached a critical mass in the District Council network and expect to see many more in the next three years.”

The inaugural class of the Larson Center for Leadership will be composed of 30 mid-career Michigan professionals, who work either directly or indirectly in the real estate or land-use sectors, and have a strong working knowledge and commitment to the ideas supported by ULI Michigan. These professionals will consist of individuals from both the private and public sectors, and will have diverse backgrounds in real estate related industries such as finance, law, planning, and other related fields.

This 9-month program will feature eight one-day programs covering such topics as finance, jobs and human capital, infrastructure, regionalism, and the role of government. Classes will be held at various locations around the state, and topics have been developed and managed by a committee of ULI Michigan members who have volunteered their time to create this program.

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“The support that we have received for this initiative from the public and private sectors and our members reinforces our premise that leadership development is an essential element in transforming and sustaining viable communities,” said Gregory McDuffee, Chair of The Larson Center for Leadership and Vice Chair of ULI Michigan.

Presenters of the aforementioned topics to the 30 students will include representatives from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Hines, The Taubman Company, The Kresge Foundation, and others from local, county and state governmental entities.

“We hope and anticipate that this continues as an annual program that can help this state grow and foster a diverse group of talented leaders who are committed to positively influencing the state and staying here,” said William Watch, ULI Michigan president. “It’s important that the knowledge we have accumulated as industry leaders in the state is carried over to the next generation to ensure a vibrant Michigan for years to come.”

The tuition for the program is \$2,000, and tuition assistance is available to those who qualify. Applications are now being accepted for the 2012-2013 class.

About ULI Michigan

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit research and education organization supported by its members. Founded in 1936, the institute now has more than 30,000 members worldwide representing the entire spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines, working in private enterprises and public service. The first Michigan-based ULI district council (now ULI Michigan) was formed in 1999. Starting with just a few members, it has grown to more than 250 members statewide.

The mission of ULI is to provide responsible leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. By providing educational forums, community outreach programs and industry expertise to community leaders, the opportunity to influence local land use policy continues to be the focus and achievement of each district council.

For more information about ULI Michigan:

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