

Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness

SUCCESS STORY

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Perpetuating Meta-Leadership Training in Giles County, Virginia

Contributor: Steve Davis

“Meta-Leadership encourages agencies to talk with, and not at, one another.”

Steve Davis, Western Region Emergency Planner for the Virginia Department of Health is on a mission to disseminate Meta-Leadership concepts and principles and encourage cross-sector collaboration throughout western Virginia and neighboring states. Davis was drawn to Meta-Leadership after attending the Southwest Virginia Summit in May 2011. He credits the Summit for “describing leadership concepts in plain language in the context of response” and for “encouraging agencies to talk with, and not at, one another.” Shortly after attending the Summit, Davis and long-time friend and colleague Richard Mitchell of global chemical producer Celanese, began planning a Meta-Leadership training for leadership in their home county of Giles County, Virginia.

Strengthening Relationships One Community at a Time

Working with leaders from area businesses (such as Nanosonic) and the Giles County Administration, Davis and Mitchell are planning a training for Spring 2012 which will bring together leaders in business, non-profit organizations, and government to learn the leadership concepts and principles taught at the Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness. Davis hopes that this training will lead to a newfound sense of respect and strengthened working relationships among community partners. Davis and Mitchell are working with Giles County Government, Lhoist Coproration, and Carillion Health Systems as well as local area venues to secure funding and meeting space.

The Meta-Leadership Plan to Expand

Davis is treating this first training as a pilot program, and if it is successful, he hopes to continue reconvening leaders to not only increase leadership capacity, but also to start tackling reoccurring preparedness gaps, such as the need for improved mechanical communications and joint messaging across leadership. Davis hopes to one day engage the Virginia counties that are contiguous to Giles County as well as nearby counties in West Virginia in Meta Leadership discussions.

The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness empowered business, government and nonprofit leaders to act together in times of crisis. The five-year initiative connected 5,000 business, government and nonprofit leaders in 36 communities. For resources and more information about Meta-Leadership visit the [CDC Foundation Meta-Leadership Website](#).



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