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Local leaders sample latest in leadership thinking

The latest thinking on leadership and what it takes to be a great leader will be brought back to the Wimmera Southern Mallee in the wake of a major conference in the USA later this month.

Horsham-based Leadership Wimmera Coordinator Anne Bothe and the organisation's Chair Dianne Marchment will travel to Long Beach, California, to take part in the USA Community Leadership Association conference, April 22-26.

Ms Bothe said she was looking forward to drawing on the experiences and thoughts of prominent experts and proven leaders.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from some very talented and experienced people about best practice and new thinking in the leadership field," Ms Bothe said.

"It also gives us the chance to speak with other people from America and around the world to hear how they are applying these ideas at a local level."

The successful Leadership Wimmera program has already won plaudits from around the state, with other regions developing their own programs based on the local model.

Auspiced by the Wimmera Development Association, the program has so far equipped 23 business owners and managers from around the Grampians Wimmera Mallee region with the skills to help them survive and thrive in challenging economic times.

A new course is currently underway, with participants drawn from industries and corporations across the region currently working their way through the intensive, six-month program.

Ms Bothe said she and Ms Marchment had been among several Victorian recipients of a Hugh Williamson Foundation study grant which had enabled them to attend the US conference.

"The conference organisers have assembled such a diverse range of speakers with a breadth of experience, and we're eagerly looking forward to hearing what they each have to say," she said.

Speakers include experts in mentoring, community leadership, corporate leadership and how good leaders can shape the future.

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