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## **Leadership Wimmera to join USA annual conference**

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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.

For the last 30 years, the USA program has been offering innovative programs to the leadership community.

This year's conference, titled "*The Leadership Voyage*", will allow participants to tap into their leadership potential and join the dialogue with other leadership professionals and participants from around the country and from other parts of the world.

This will be a great opportunity to learn new skills, come away with new ideas and network with fellow community leaders.

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 LEADERSHIP WIMMERA had been among the 10 Victorian leadership programs to be recipients of a Hugh Williamson Foundation study grant which will enable them to attend the US conference.

Ms Bothe said they were 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 network with people from the American programs and other representatives from around the world to hear how they are applying these ideas at a local level."

"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.

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

Auspiced by the Wimmera Development Association, the program has thus far equipped its graduate base of 254 business and community people from around the Grampians Wimmera Mallee region with the skills to help them survive and thrive in challenging economic times.

Leadership Wimmera's three 2009 programs are currently underway with 47 participants drawn from industries, corporations and community groups across the region, currently working their way through the intensive, 10-month program facilitated by Leading Teams Australia.

Leadership Wimmera programs are made possible through funding from the State Government body of Regional Development Victoria.

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