



A New Partnership: Leadership Rhode Island and the Worksite Wellness Council of Rhode Island

Leadership Rhode Island and the Worksite Wellness Council of Rhode Island announce an exciting new partnership that will benefit the State of Rhode Island.

Leadership Rhode Island (LRI) is a nationally recognized community leadership organization, working to enable civic leaders to improve the quality of life in their communities. The Worksite Wellness Council (WWCRI), an affiliate of the Wellness Councils of America (WELCOA), is dedicated to improving the health and safety of working Rhode Islanders by promoting and supporting worksite health promotion initiatives. LRI and WWCRI share common interests in improving the health and wellness of Rhode Islanders, in taking action on a statewide level, and in making Rhode Island the first Well State in the nation, as recognized by WELCOA. When the Rhode Island employers certified by WELCOA collectively employ at least 20% of the state's workforce, Rhode Island will be certified a Well State. Workplace wellness initiatives save healthcare costs and contribute positively to the health of Rhode Islanders and their families.

WWCRI will continue to spearhead wellness initiatives and will provide information, expertise, support, and other resources to individuals and to companies seeking to establish workplace wellness initiatives. LRI will provide leadership and activism by encouraging and supporting LRI alumni to initiate or become involved in wellness initiatives. LRI's over 1,000 alumni form a growing community of informed, visionary, and action-oriented leaders. These business, civic, and community leaders are supported by their employers and sponsors, more than 500 large and small Rhode Island businesses. LRI alumni are poised to serve as catalysts for establishing initiatives in their companies and organizations. LRI and WWCRI will combine their efforts for Rhode Island to achieve the distinction of Well State by 2006.

LRI will support WWCRI in worksite wellness initiatives in four major ways: a) through regular communications with LRI alumni; b) by making connections between alumni, companies, and WWCRI; c) by advocating for worksite wellness issues in program events and other venues; and d) by encouraging alumni to take strong active roles in promoting workplace wellness and in achieving the Well State designation for Rhode Island.

LRI alumni are encouraged to take action in multiple ways, including: a) adopting a healthy personal lifestyle; b) learning about the Worksite Wellness Initiative; c) becoming a Worksite Wellness champion in their organizations; and d) assisting the State of Rhode Island to become the first WELCOA certified Well State in the United States by 2006.

For more information about worksite wellness and the Well State initiative, go to the Worksite Wellness Council of Rhode Island's website at www.wwcri.org. For more information about Leadership Rhode Island and its alumni activities, go to www.leadershipri.org.