

Contact: Kelly McCandless  
Billings Chamber/CVB  
Phone: (406) 869-3732  
(406) 861-2981  
[kelly@BillingsChamber.com](mailto:kelly@BillingsChamber.com)  
[www.BillingsChamber.com](http://www.BillingsChamber.com)

P.O. Box 31177  
815 S. 27<sup>th</sup> St.  
Billings, MT 59107  
Fax: (406) 245-7333  
[www.VisitBillings.com](http://www.VisitBillings.com)  
[www.BrandBillings.com](http://www.BrandBillings.com)

Billings Chamber of Commerce  
Convention and Visitors Bureau



# Media Release

## Chamber/CVB Adult and Youth Leadership Billings Classes of 2011-12 Graduate

### For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, May 7, 2012: The Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau Adult and Youth Leadership Billings Classes of 2012 graduate on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn (2465 Grant Road). Forty-three adults and forty-one high school juniors will graduate.

The Leadership Billings program unites business leaders and students from the Billings community to learn about and get involved with the Billings community. As the Billings area continues to grow, it is becoming more and more important for local business leaders to communicate and work effectively together. This program offers a venue for these individuals to develop and maintain strong community ties which help form stronger community relationships.

Each year, dozens of local business leaders and executives join the Billings Chamber/CVB Adult Leadership Billings Program, while junior level high school students are recruited through their counselors for the program. Students are selected through an application and interview process. This program works to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise among leaders of area businesses and organizations. Through this valuable eight-month course, participants gain clearer business climate and community perspectives. With keynote speakers, panel discussions, team-building exercises, problem solving and site visits, participants have an opportunity to gain insight into the local economy, explore Billings' history, interact with business, government and educational leaders, build and develop individual leadership skills, and learn more about pressing community issues.

Not only do participants learn more about the 'insides' of the local business community and climate, but they also build relationships, that in the end, can create a stronger voice for the city. Group members explore opportunities to work together as a community, which is extremely important as the city moves forward. What's more, students gain access and connections during an influential time of their educational career. As Senior High student Marissa Van Atta put it, "I

can think of no better way to be introduced to city and industry leaders, from such a wide variety of civic and professional areas, as I did through Youth Leadership Billings. These leaders took the time to explain their areas of expertise, giving us a unique insight and perspective that we otherwise could not have received. To be able to learn while in the company of other students made me feel comfortable and it was fun!"

The Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau congratulates these graduates!

To learn more about the Leadership Billings programs, please contact 406-245-4111.

###

The Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau  
"Our Vision is to achieve excellence in community leadership and growth."  
"Our Mission is to develop a strong business climate and vibrant economy by serving the community in a leadership role thereby enhancing the quality of life."  
"Billings is Changing. Your Chamber/CVB is Leading the Way."