



United Counties Council of Illinois

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MEMO TO: UCCI Membership
DATE: February 11, 2021
SUBJECT: UCCI/U of I LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
2021 PROGRAM UPDATE

We can all agree that the coronavirus pandemic drastically impacted 2020 and continues to change the way we go about our business as 2021 begins.

Due to the pandemic, in 2020 the Leadership Academy was provided entirely online. UCCI and the University of Illinois have discussed the adjustments that were necessary to provide the program in an online format, as well as reviewed comments and feedback provided by the Class of 2020 participants relating to their experience. While the experience was a positive one for participants, as well as for presenters, everyone involved recognized that opportunities for networking were not available, and sorely missed.

We are grateful to the participants and presenters for their dedicated participation in last year's Leadership Academy program, and to Ms. Anne Silvis, Program Leader and Assistant Dean, Community and Economic Development, University of Illinois Extension, for the effort put forth in presenting a quality program under challenging circumstances.

In looking ahead to the possibilities and realities of the 2021 Leadership Academy, UCCI and the University of Illinois have determined that the best option for the annual Leadership Academy is to hold off for this year, and to resume our annual Academy sessions in 2022, when we are much more likely to be able to gather in person, safely.

So, at this time, in cooperation and complete agreement with our University of Illinois Extension partner, UCCI is announcing the decision to postpone our next Leadership Academy until 2022.

When we have developed the program and the schedule, we will share that information with you. In the meantime, stay safe!

W. Michael McCreery, UCCI Executive Director

Anne H. Silvis, University of Illinois Extension