

Quotes from the class of Leadership Bluegrass 2010:

“Leadership Bluegrass is more than just a global think tank on the state of bluegrass industry today.... For many it is a healing circle of friends.” – **Denis Chadbourn**, Bluegrass Music Association of Central Canada, Nipissing Bluegrass Association, C-Denny Band

“Leadership Bluegrass provides an invaluable opportunity to meet and dialogue with people engaged in all facets of the bluegrass industry. Be prepared to completely re-evaluate and re-examine your assumptions about what you can do to shape your career and the direction of the bluegrass industry as a whole. Your voice matters!” – **Jen Larson**, Straight Drive

“Wherever you are in your career, Leadership Bluegrass provides stellar information and experience.” Jean Spivey, Old Settler’s Music Festival

“Leadership rooted in a passion for the music!” – **Thad Keim**, Compass Records Group

“Leadership Bluegrass opened my eyes to aspects of the industry in new ways, and with new depth. I’ve made new friends, as well as potential business partners.” – **Phil Bankester**, The Bankester Family, Genuine Human Productions

“If I can take the passion I have for the music and can figure out how to change that passion toward furthering bluegrass music, my small investment of my time participating in Leadership Bluegrass will seem microscopic compared to the return in the decades to come.” – **Michael Ramsey**, Red, White and Bluegrass Festival

“If you open your mind, you will be overwhelmed by the information and friends that you will walk away from this class with.” – **Karl Cooler**, Mountain Roads Recordings

“On day one you start out feeling like Charlie Brown and by day three you morph into Rambo!” – **Donna Ulisse**, Donna Ulisse & the Poor Mountain Boys, Hadley Music Group

“Fasten your seat belts!” - **Chris Kennan**, Johnny Keenan Banjo Festival

“I feel like I just had Thanksgiving dinner, I’ve got so much to digest! Here you get everything from the meat to dessert and a family to share the feast.” – **Patty Mitchell**, Artist/ Music Heritage Center of Middle Tennessee

“Play it forward.” - **Avery Ellisman**, Non-profit Management & Resource Development

“An engaging and rewarding experience that is a must for anyone involved in the business of bluegrass.” – **Gary Reid**, Bluegrass Productions of Virginia, LLC

“It’s scarily intense and I love it!” – **Jessica Smith**, Bassist/Vocalist

“It’s okay to be small if you’re special... Then be part of something big!” – **Gretchen Priest-May**, Music Heritage Center of Middle Tennessee/ Artist

“Leadership Bluegrass will be the best networking and learning experience you will ever have the privilege to participate in.” – **Jess Norburg**, IBMA

“A wonderful opportunity to gain a big picture perspective” – **Thomas J. Brown**, Artist/Songwriter/Playwright, SEBA

What class members had to say about Leadership Bluegrass 2009

"It's a bluegrass epiphany." –**David Crow**; Milom, Joyce, Horsnell & Crow PLC; Bobby Osborne & the Rocky Top X-Press

"I feel synergized!" – **Brandi Hart**, The Dixie Bee-Liners

"Be active. Become involved. Be a bluegrass leader." – **Gary J. Jolicoeur**, WNRV Bluegrass Radio

"Being an international class member of Leadership Bluegrass, I feel excited, overwhelmed and privileged at acquiring the breadth and depth of specialist knowledge regarding all aspects of the bluegrass music industry over the past three days. Second to none, LBG has been the most resourceful and valuable course that I could have participated in to help further my bluegrass career, and aid my endeavors at raising the profile of bluegrass music in the U.K." – **Hannah Johnson**, The Toy Hearts

"It's the ultimate immersion experience for those passionate about bluegrass." – **Karl Kersey**, Fiddle and Pick

"Success comes to he who is patient if he works like hell while he's being patient." –**Larry Cordle**, Larry Cordle & Lonesome Standard Time

"Years of practical experience on the questions that count, come cascading right out to you in three days." – **Barry Mazor**, Journalist/Author (No Depression, The Wall Street Journal)

"I would highly recommend Leadership Bluegrass to anyone that cares about bluegrass music. It is a unique opportunity that will surely inspire you!" – **Penni McDaniel**; Hope River Entertainment, Rural Rhythm Records/publicist

"Leadership Bluegrass is an awesome experience!" - **Janet McGarry**; Diamond Productions, PEI; Janet McGarry & Wildwood

"Leadership Bluegrass is a head-spinning three days.... And at the end of those three days your head might be on backwards." – **C. Roger Moss**, Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival

"I left IBMA's Leadership Bluegrass with an overwhelming feeling of optimism for the future soul of our music. Absolutely to be recommended to anyone with an interest in this distinctly American art form." –**Tom Mueller**, The Muellers

"Leadership Bluegrass is the best of its kind! Don't miss out if you have the chance to attend." -**David Preston**, BMI

"Leadership Bluegrass will make you grow in music." -**Ronnie Reno**; Blue Highways Television, Ronnie Reno & the Reno Tradition

"What you receive at Leadership Bluegrass will be useful for years to come. The diversity of the group and everyone's different views were eye opening. What a waste it would be if I did not use the gifts that were given to me in these three days." – **Leah Ross**, Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion

"The experience is challenging with rigor and a rich overview of the industry, and the classmates are topnotch." **Tom Thorpe**; Dyer Switch Bluegrass Band, educator

"I wish every professional member of IBMA had the opportunity to participate in this class." –**Alan Tompkins**; Bluegrass Heritage Foundation, Acoustic Music Camp

"Leadership Bluegrass is an intense, informative, high-level learning experience which is guaranteed to open your eyes and your mind. If you are serious about furthering your career, it will be an essential building block. But more importantly, it will provide you with the contacts and opportunities to help carry the music we all love forward." -**Jim Van Cleve**; Mountain Heart, producer/songwriter/session musician

"Great program, talented people, a congenial and stimulating experience." –**Dwight Worden**; San Diego Bluegrass Society, IBMA Board of Directors