

Floyd County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 218

Floyd, Virginia

24091

Press Release

To: Local and Regional Media
From: Terri Morris, Floyd County Administrator
Date: September 26, 2019

Appalachian Regional Commission Names Lydeana Martin as Appalachian Leadership Institute Fellow

Martin to Represent Virginia in Intensive Regional Leadership Development Program

September 25, 2019, Floyd, VA – The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) named Lydeana Martin, Floyd County's Community and Economic Development Director, to participate in the inaugural class of the Appalachian Leadership Institute.

As a Fellow, Martin will participate in the Appalachian Leadership Institute, an extensive nine-month program of skill-building seminars, best practice reviews, field visits, mentoring, and networking. The curriculum will be anchored by six multi-day seminars around the region with the first sessions taking place in Morehead, Kentucky October 21-24, 2019. Subsequent training sessions will be held in Dalton, Georgia; Starkville, Mississippi; Beckley, West Virginia; Boone, North Carolina; Jamestown, New York; followed by a capstone graduation in Washington, DC in July, 2020.

"We are very excited that Lydeana will be part of this new program. She will represent Virginia and Floyd County well," said Terri Morris, Floyd County Administrator. Martin has worked for Floyd County for 15 years. Prior to that she worked with the New River Valley Regional Commission for about 5 years.

As part of the Appalachian Leadership Institute, Martin will work directly with public policy, community development, education, investment, and other professionals who live and/or work in the Region to:

- Design effective economic development project proposals
- Integrate community assets into long-lasting economic development strategies
- Identify resources available to spur economic development
- Locate and access investment capital from a variety of public and private sources
- Prepare competitive applications for public grant opportunities
- Use expanded leadership skills to create strong coalitions

Upon completion of the program, Martin will automatically become part of the Appalachian Leadership Institute Network, a peer-to-peer working group committed to Appalachia's future.

“Our hope is that the Appalachian Leadership Institute will help develop leadership and problem solving, bring advancement, and grow greater prosperity in the Region,” said ARC Federal Co-Chairman Tim Thomas. “Leadership is the essential foundation on which all of our collective efforts to enhance Appalachia rest.”

Martin was selected via a competitive application process. ARC received 180 applications for the 2019-2020 Appalachian Leadership Institute class, resulting in an acceptance rate of 22 percent. Applications for the 2020-2021 class will open in March, 2020.

The Appalachian Leadership Institute is a comprehensive regional leadership training program developed by the Appalachian Regional Commission in partnership with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; The Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy; Tuskegee University; and Collective Impact. More information about the Appalachian Leadership Institute is available at www.arc.gov/leadershipinstitute.

About the Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (www.arc.gov) is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 420 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC’s mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the Region achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.

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