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f all the qualities and skills desired by employers, leadership ranks among the top. Unfortunately, leadership is rather nebulous; it’s a bit like love - you know it when you see it, and when there is a lack of it, its absence is felt most deeply. In a recent Washington Post column addressing the debate on the state of health care and the epidemic of obesity in the United States, guest commentator, Joe Moore, CEO of International Health, Racquet & Sportclub Association appealed for the need of leadership, stating:

Leaders must emerge from all industries, sectors, and corners of the country, while existing leaders must make the health of their followers, employees and students a priority. And while it’s important that political leaders create supportive public policies and legislation to make exercise and healthy living affordable for all Americans, including economic incentives like appropriate tax incentives, it’s equally important that everyday leaders figure out ways to affect healthier schools, workplaces, and local communities.

While the need for leadership is established, the larger issue is: From where does leadership come? For 10 years, Coro Pittsburgh has been addressing the dearth of leadership and ensuring those leaders to make a difference in every segment of society including health care.

Coro, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, whose mission is to advance ethical and effective leaders who share a commitment to civic engagement, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Through its numerous programs, Coro has been building a leadership pipeline for Pittsburgh’s business, health care, nonprofit and government sectors.

“The goal of Coro is to better prepare our region by providing well-trained leaders from our area to stay in our area,” said Sala Udin, president and CEO of Coro Center for Civic Leadership. Udin, former City of Pittsburgh councilman and noted civic leader, has been at the helm of Coro since 2000 and says that most employers are frustrated that college graduates are not ready to lead. “Coro fills that gap by providing talent that is ready to lead in any sector. They are ready to grab a task and get it done,” Udin said.

Coro provides an experiential approach to leadership development through its numerous programs. Coro equips leaders with the tools they need to transform the world. The Fellows Program in Public Affairs enables fellows to complete work in government, health care, nonprofit and business organizations. The Regional Internship Center of southwestern PA brokers connections between internship seekers and employers throughout the region.

Public Allies, an Americorps Program, partners with Coro to identify talented young adults from diverse backgrounds and prepare them for careers working for community and social change. Leaders in Learning participants learn about the Pittsburgh Public School system, create an educational team project, and network with and interview local leaders. Women in Leadership participants work with a personal coach to create a Personal Strategic Plan, create a group project, network with and interview local leaders. The Running for Public Office program strengthens participation in public elections.

Coro Pittsburgh also has an Alumni Council for those who wish to stay involved with Coro after the programs are completed. Alumni are responsible for continuing communication with current program participants, maintaining data and networking with businesses and professionals just to name a few.

“With our magnificant talent pool from Pitt, Duquesne, CMU and the other colleges and universities in the area we shouldn’t have to rely as much on bringing in talent from other countries to fill these positions,” Udin said. To rectify this situation, Coro recruits from local colleges and universities, and students are shown how to gain a competitive edge through leadership development.

On November 7th, Coro will celebrate its 10th Anniversary. For more information about Coro, visit the website at www.pittsburgh.coro.org