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## ALL strengthens, broadens leadership base



### Executive Director's Update | Heather Rutz

Several months ago, during a visit to PERRYproTECH, I saw a small note tacked up, taken from a sign hanging in a restaurant window. It said, "Come in, or we'll both starve." It's so true, no matter the industry. ALL teaches me daily we're better together, and we need each other more than ever. With that in mind, let me share lots of new ALL things happening.

This may be the first you've heard from us in a while: We updated our database, and we want to stay connected, with a new alumni association. You can read more about that in this newsletter. We also have new mission and vision statements, new website and logo, and have increased our visibility with traditional and social media. We added a stand-alone leadership development workshop, board service opportunities and board leadership training to our other program offerings. We increased the rigor of our Signature Course leadership development component, and added a service component to our Youth program.

Our vision drives us, and is a renewed pledge to Lima and Allen County: to be the premier organization the community seeks to strengthen and broaden the local leadership base. Just like spending a dollar locally turns over to fuel a local economy, ALL invests in people. Our economy is people, and our currency is capacity. I invite you to re-engage with ALL, and help us take those original investments and turn them over for good. It's a profound ripple effect.

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“WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS” | ROBERT INGERSOLL



## Were you in the Best Class Ever?

It's the ever-popular refrain when ALL alums announce themselves by class, “best class ever.” Well, now it's time to prove it.

Allen Lima Leadership, in kicking off the ALL Alumni Association, will hold a contest this spring and summer, auctioning off bragging rights to the BCE title. Alums can earn points for their classes with gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Every time you show up at an ALL or alumni event, every time you volunteer for ALL, every time you donate, you earn points for your class. We'll keep that tally this spring and summer, and award bragging rights for the year to the winning class at the September graduation/welcome event.

You can hear all about the contest, and plans for the new group, at our kick-off event, the BCE Spring Mixer, from 5 to 7 p.m. April 20 at The Met. We'll do a brief presentation at 5:30 p.m. A \$50 donation includes 2017 alumni association membership, appetizers and your first drink, and your first point toward that BCE trophy.

This year's Signature Course class is the 29th, if you can believe it. We appreciate such a rich history of alumni! While class members have positive experiences during their “ALL year,” we haven't done a good job of keeping you connected to the program, or each other. We are improving that with the association, created to leverage the ALL connection for networking, leadership development, board service opportunities, and board leadership training.

Plans for the year so far include:

- ★ Nonprofit Speed Dating, a quarterly networking event for alums to learn about nonprofits in our community, opportunities for board service, and board leadership training;
- ★ BCE Homecoming, a tailgate just in time for football season and a chance to reconnect with your class; and
- ★ ALL Graduation, a return to the tradition of a special community event honoring our Signature Course graduates and welcoming a new class.

The ALL Alumni Association Committee is a small group at the moment. If you'd like to get involved in planning, contact ALL Executive Director Heather Rutz at [ALL@wcoil.com](mailto:ALL@wcoil.com) or 419-222-2711.