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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **THE CHAMBER'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP OFF TO A GREAT START!**

(January 19, 2012 – RENO, Nev.) – Almost one hundred parents, students, school administrators, and chamber board members attended the Leadership Reno Sparks Youth Orientation Meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at Damonte Ranch High School.

The youth leadership program, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, is patterned after the highly successful adult leadership program, which is now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year.

The youth program is a collaboration of the Chamber, the Washoe County School District, and the Education Alliance. This year's class is comprised of 43 diverse students from most of the region's high schools. All students are in their junior year and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Each student completed an extensive application and is chosen by a committee which evaluates the student's leadership potential, community contributions, and ideas for addressing community challenges.

In addition to the four full-day workshops, the class members will participate in extensive community projects, including volunteering at the Veteran's Guest House, providing for the basic needs of students and families at a Sierra Vista Elementary School and supporting the Positive Behavior Incentive Support (PBIS) program at Dunn Elementary School. The students will be organizing drives for monetary contributions and in-kind donations.

The first workshop for the Youth Leadership program will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at the AGC building on Mill Street in Reno, Nevada. Dean Whellams of Q&D Construction will lead the class members in a full-day, high-energy team building and communications program, which previous participants have described as "freaking fantastic!"

The second program, law enforcement, will be conducted at the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Session three is on Communication in the Media, and the final program, Life After High School, will include a graduation dinner and celebration.

If you or your organization would like to contribute to this program, please contact Idora Silver at (775)829-0606 or [idsilver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:idsilver@sbcglobal.net)

**About the Education Alliance:** The Education Alliance fosters educational excellence through a variety of educational programming while implementing and sustaining a comprehensive development plan to raise funds through annual giving, endowment, major gifts, special projects and public grants.

For more information about the Education Alliance, please contact Denise Hedrick, Executive Director at 353-5533 or visit [www.ed-alliance.org](http://www.ed-alliance.org).

**About the Washoe County School District:** The Washoe County School District includes the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area, Incline Village, Gerlach, Empire and Wadsworth Nevada. The District provides each of its 63,000 students with a superior education in a safe and challenging environment and is committed to graduate every child career and college ready.

For more information please visit [www.washoecountyschools.org](http://www.washoecountyschools.org). Follow us on twitter at WCSDTweet.

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