



Speeding, Network and BASE

What's an LR to do?

Meet Angela Kennow, Leadership Racine Class of 2010. She's not a Racine native, but she is a State native, hailing from the Manawa area. She also married a Racine native which has helped lead her along the path to commitment to Racine, the people and the organizations that do business here.



Angela first came to this area for a job like so many of us. She started out around here with Wisconsin Screen Process as a Graphic Artist. Her background is in graphics and Flexographic Printing, which also means she is quite creative. She currently works as a Project Manager with Great Northern Corporation. Not one to sit idle, she has two young sons, ages 1 ½ and 4, and yet she found the time and commitment to attend Alverno College and obtain her Bachelor's in Business and Management.

Great Northern Corporation management recognized in Angela a commitment not only to her job, but to her community. They supported her application to the Leadership Racine program. Angela approached Leadership Racine because of her belief that; **"Living in a community means participating in that community."**

And Angela is a participator! Part of the Leadership Racine program involves an event known as the Non Profit Speed Networking event. Each year, area non profits are invited to a session and in true speed "dating" have 5 minutes with

each class member to share their story. Angela had wanted to get back to using more of her creativity. During the Speed Networking, she met Anna Clementi of the 6th Street Theatre. Anna not only helped Angela understand the breadth of the nonprofit community within Racine, she was able to recruit Angela to serve on the Over Our Head Players Board.

So we know that Angela clearly enjoys theatre and drama. But, who knew she has also taken flying lessons and that her Dad used to fly? While the only flying she may be doing today is tackling young sons on the loose, it clearly shows what a broad range of interests she has. And we need those broad perspectives as we grow Racine into an even better community.

Living in a community means participating in that community

Speaking of growing, her team project focused on what specifics in education and youth they might address that would help young people understand what job opportunities are available to them in Racine and what the expectations of those jobs are. Her team understood the need to develop a solid work force with needed skills to meet the current and future demands of Racine companies.

BASE stands for **B**usiness **A**nd **S**tudent **E**nrichment. **BASE** is currently open to Park High school students, yet the desire remains to be able to further expand it within the Racine Unified School District.

The **BASE** Mission statement reads:

"To increase Racine Unified School District students' awareness of the education and career paths of Racine business professionals and the contributions of their respective organizations; and to foster the students' sense of pride in the Racine community"

While there are great benefits for the business community, listen to the student benefits:

- Increased awareness of connection between education and career
- Receive first hand, real life examples of individual career success
- Receive insight on the potential opportunities available within Racine
- Gain business professional role models
- Develop networking skills

As we move forward with the economic growth of Racine, it is critical that we show our youth that there are great jobs here and what needs to be done to get them. **BASE** addresses these needs and we look for this to become a sustainable program.

For Angela, being a part of the Leadership Racine program not only provided leadership skills that enhance her work at Great Northern Company, she has found a way to individually contribute to our community. As she put it,

"Being a part of Leadership Racine helped me find fulfillment with the realization of what you can accomplish alone and in a group – to know what an individual can do and make a difference. Plus, the networking opportunities provided within the Leadership Racine class and Alumni create a base for sharing resources that help support Racine."