

Students in this program will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the critical skills that are necessary to support successful leadership in their fire organization. The course will strengthen the idea that effective leadership in today's fire service involves more than just tactics.

By partaking in lectures, assessments, and skill building activities students will gain an understanding of their own personal leadership assets and liabilities. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of the most important skills associated with leadership based on sound research. The course will consist of 9 related leadership topics taught by highly regarded professionals. To achieve a Leadership Certificate a student must attend and participate in at least 7 of the courses. Certificates will also be issued for individual classes.

Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings beginning January 22nd and concluding February 21st. Classes will be held from 7pm to 8pm via Zoom on the Bucks County Community College platform. Classes will also be recorded and placed in the Canvas Platform but must be completed within a week of the original presentation to be eligible for a certificate.

January 22 -Bucks Staff - Introduction to Online Learning Platforms

January 24 - Abbey McCann – “Professional Communication: Speaking, Listening, & Maintaining Civility “

January 29- Chief Jason Caughey – “My Department’s Experience with a Customer Service Specialist”

January 31- Commissioner Jared Renshaw – “A Fire Chief’s Guide to Surviving Local Politics”

February 5- Tyler Olsen – “Understanding ISO and Your PPC”

February 7- Janelle Fosket and Jon Dorman – “What Firefighters Want 2023 Survey Results.”

February 12- Shelly Elliott “Lessons in Leadership - From Business to Blaze and Everything in Between”

February 19- Rick Lago – “Decision Making at the Critical Moment”

February 21- Representative Dallas Kephart – “The Path Legislation Must Follow in the PA House and Senate”

Abbey McCann Bio:

Abbey McCann has a bachelor's degree in Communication with an emphasis on Public Relations and a minor in Business Marketing from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, a master's degree in Rhetoric and the Philosophy of Communication from Duquesne University and is currently writing her dissertation for her Doctorate in Rhetoric, also from Duquesne University. She serves as a course instructor at Duquesne University, Seton Hill University, and the

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, teaching Integrated Marketing Communication, Public Speaking, Business and Professional Communication, Communication in the Marketplace, Leadership Communication, and Conflict Between Persons. In addition to her academic work, Abbey also does freelance marketing and writing for The Forbes Funds of Pittsburgh and Seton Hill University.

Chief Jason Caughey Bio

Jason is the fire chief of the Laramie County Fire Authority in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and an adjunct professor for Laramie County Community College, where he teaches on the principles of fire behavior. Prior to arriving in Cheyenne in 2011, he was the fire chief of Gore Hill Fire Rescue in Great Falls, Montana. He also spent 10 years working for the Montana Fire Services Training School as a regional instructor and regional training manager for the state of Montana. Caughey has been an active member in the “Kill the Flashover” project, led by Joe Starnes. He is also a current technical member of the UL Positive Pressure test committee and a lead instructor for the Ottawa Project “Knowledge to Practice.” Caughey has a bachelor’s degree in fire science from Columbia Southern University and is working on his master’s degree in public administration. He is currently attending the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program.

Commissioner Jared Renshaw bio

Jared has over 20 years of experience in the fire service. He started his fire service career in South Fayette Township PA. He has since served with career departments in South Carolina California and, since 2015, has been serving as the Commissioner with the Western Berks Fire Department. This is a regionalized, combination department, which serves over 20,000 residents, spanning four separate municipalities in Pennsylvania. Jared also has numerous certifications, including a bachelor’s degree in Fire Service Administration and he is also designated as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He also serves as a Peer Reviewer for the CPSE and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute.

Tyler Olsen Bio

Tyler Olsen is a Regional Manager for PPC and Building Codes at ISO/Verisk. His territory currently covers 11 states. Tyler has been in the fire service for 20 years and previously served as chief of department for a combination style agency. He is a local level instructor for the PA State Fire Academy. He holds multiple certifications including: CFPS, Fire Officer IV, and Fire Service Instructor II

Janelle Fosket Bio

Janelle Foskett is the editor-in-chief of FireRescue1.com and FireChief.com, responsible for defining original editorial content, tracking industry trends, managing expert contributors, and leading execution of special coverage efforts. She joined the Lexipol team in 2019 and has 18 years of experience in fire service media and publishing. Foskett has a bachelor's degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo and a certificate in technical communications from the University of California, San Diego. She lives in San Diego County, California. jfosket@lexipol.com

Jon Dorman Bio

Jon is Director of Content – Fire for Lexipol. He has more than 25 years in the fire service in both combination and career departments, retiring as the assistant chief of operations and deputy emergency manager. Dorman also has more than a decade of experience teaching in the Fire Science and Emergency Management program at Purdue University Global (formerly Kaplan University). He has a bachelor's degree in fire protection science from SUNY Empire State College, a master's degree in employment law from Nova Southeastern University, and a master's degree in homeland security and emergency management from Kaplan University. Dorman can be reached at jdorman@lexipol.com.

Shelly Elliott Bio

Shelly currently serves as the President of Holmatro USA. She is the first female president of a fire rescue tool manufacturer in the United States. With broad experience working for Fortune 100 public companies and private industry in ascending leadership roles, Shelly brings perspective, insights, and comprehensive approaches to the table.

Growing up a basketball coach's daughter, the lessons sports taught Shelly have shaped her perspectives on life, leadership, teamwork, business, competition, women's and girls' representation, and many other issues. Shelly is incredibly passionate about girls' access to STEM education and a champion for women's equality and representation in leadership. Her niche leadership coaching and career advising focuses on mid-senior and newly appointed executive women leaders.

Shelly has an MBA from Texas A&M University and a BS in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from Notre Dame University

Battalion Chief Rick Lago

Rick is a veteran Battalion Chief with the City of Baltimore. He has a diverse career history. Trained in Emergency Services, Public Safety, Special Operations, Education and Training. Experience in the investigation of serious injuries and fatalities of firefighting personnel. National speaker in the area of Incident Command and Leadership. Possesses an Associate Degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University.

Representative Dallas Kephart

State Rep. Dallas Kephart is in his first term of service to residents of the 73rd Legislative District. For the 2023-24 legislative session, Dallas has been assigned to serve on the following committees – Commerce, Environmental Resources and Energy, Finance and Gaming Oversight. He is also a member of the Coal, Oil and Gas, and Rare Earth Minerals caucuses.

Dallas is a lifelong resident of Clearfield County, having grown up in Decatur Township and graduated from Philipsburg-Osceola High School. He is an alumnus of Lock Haven University, graduating magna cum laude. While working to obtain his undergraduate degree, he interned for Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson and spent his summers working in the coal industry, operating heavy equipment and working at a local processing plant to help clean and process coal.

Dallas then went to law school and earned his Juris Doctorate from Penn State Law. While there, he provided pro bono legal services to startup and early-stage businesses and served as a law clerk to the United States House of Representatives Oversight Committee.

Following law school, Dallas became a licensed attorney and worked for a judge on the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court.

Dallas' legislative goals include striving to create an economic environment that allows for job creation and economic growth, defending our state and federal constitutions and providing top quality constituent services.