OCPS Leadership Orange Program Seeks Involved Community Members

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Have you ever wondered what it would be like to drive a school bus, feed tens of thousands of students everyday, or teach in a totally digital classroom? Those are just some of the opportunities available to community members selected to participate in Orange County Public School's Leadership Orange program.

OCPS is currently accepting applications for the sixth year of its Leadership Orange program, a "citizens academy" designed to teach residents what is going on behind the scenes of a large urban school district.

With more than 192,000 students, OCPS is the 10th-largest school district in the nation. It takes about 23,000 employees to support the district's vision to become the top producer of successful students in the nation. Just last year, OCPS was recognized as a co-winner of the prestigious Broad (rhymes with road) Prize for Urban Education, which honors urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among low-income students and students of color. Considered the largest education prize in the country, graduating seniors from the class of 2015 benefitted from $500,000 in scholarships.

Over the course of eight monthly sessions, members of Leadership Orange will experience behind-the-scenes tours, hands-on demonstrations, student interaction, and quality time with the experts in their fields. Each month focuses on a different aspect of school district operations, from teaching in the classroom, to building and maintaining facilities, and feeding and transporting students.

To date, 159 residents have graduated from Leadership Orange and gone on to contribute as a volunteer on numerous committees in the district and at schools.

For more information on Leadership Orange, visit www.leadership.ocps.net, where you will also find the application. The deadline to apply is Aug. 14. OCPS Employees are not eligible to apply.