



St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assemblyman Scott Gray Speaks to Teen Leaders at Lead '26 Workshop

CANTON, NY — Teen leaders participating in the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau's Lead '26 leadership development series recently welcomed New York State Assemblyman Scott Gray as their guest speaker, where he shared insights on leadership, service, and community engagement.

Drawing from his experience growing his family's business, Gray spoke about the importance of leadership rooted in strong systems, clear processes, and caring for people. He explained that when leaders prioritize their employees and customers, success naturally follows.

"One of the key lessons I've learned is that leadership isn't about worrying about yourself," Gray shared with the teens. "It's about taking care of the people around you."

Gray also discussed his long history of public service and community involvement, which ultimately led him to run for office. Prior to being elected to the New York State Assembly in 2022, he served six years as Chair of the Finance Committee and six years as Chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Legislators.

During the discussion, Gray reflected on leadership during challenging times, including major flooding events in 2016 and 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized the importance of collaboration, listening to others, and building relationships.

"My approach has always been to put my constituents first and listen to both sides," Gray said. "Real progress often happens when people are willing to meet in the middle."

"We are incredibly grateful to Assemblyman Gray for taking the time to share his experiences with our young leaders," said Alexa Backus Chase, Director of the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau. "His message about service, relationships, and leading with integrity resonated strongly with our teens."

The Lead '26 series brings together teen leaders from across St. Lawrence County to explore civic engagement, leadership development, and community service through interactive workshops and guest speakers.

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