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**Civic Leadership Academy Inducts Second Class**

**LUBBOCK, TEXAS** – The Civic Leadership Academy recently inducted their second class of members from the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The 2023-2024 CLA members inductees are: Dylan Sweatt, Madilyn Miller, Taylor Limbaugh, Ryan Hess, Blake Mills, Rachel Bradford, Marexy Guerra, Rylee Dodson, and Alexis Morano.

The CLA is a yearlong project devoted to finding a need within the local community and addressing it. The CLA provides an “opportunity for students in [the Davis] college who are interested in serving their communities in one way or another,” said Dr. Jason Headrick, assistant professor of agricultural leadership and director of the CLA.

Supported by a grant from the Helen Jones Foundation, the academy was able to “assess, not assume” issues within Lubbock and surrounding communities. The inaugural class project included purchasing 10 electric bikes to give back to those in the community in need of transportation. The second class of the academy has continued trying to create a food pantry for O.L. Slaton middle school.

“[O.L Slaton] is one of the only schools in Lubbock County that does not have a food pantry,” Headrick said. “With 90% of students on free and reduced lunch, it’s probably the school that needs it the most.”

As the second class progresses, members will find more needs within Lubbock and surrounding communities to try and fulfill.

“Individuals want to serve in individual ways,” said Headrick. “But when you get everyone connected and focused on the community challenge at hand, there is no limit to what you can accomplish.”

As the program starts to take flight, we spoke with previous members to see just how the CLA impacted their life.

“I didn’t really think that I would be involved in my college community, and this program was a segway into understanding Lubbock,” said previous inductee Courtney Thurman when asked what her favorite thing about the CLA was.

To become involved in next year’s class, applicants must be studying within the Davis College and complete an application by November of 2023.

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*The Civic Leadership Academy is a program housed in the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources at Texas Tech University. Supported by a grant from the Helen Jones Foundation, the CLA addresses the need to promote civic leadership in Lubbock and the surrounding region through a multi-disciplinary service-learning approach. CLA participants engage in self-discovery through leadership development, values assessment, and community development opportunities. For more information, visit civicleadershipacademy.com.*