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| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**March 24, 2023 |

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| **Livingston ESA Completes Year Two of Cultivating Leaders Series** |

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| **Howell, MI:**Livingston ESA brings together educators from across the county for its second year of the learning series “Cultivating Leaders.”Maintaining a leadership pipeline is a challenge facing school districts across the state. In 2021, Livingston ESA launched a series of workshops, Cultivating Leaders, to address this challenge and fill the space by cultivating new and emerging leaders. |

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| On March 20th, educators from across Livingston County attended the last of this year’s four Cultivating Leaders workshops.  The group was the second cohort to participate in the series.“Cultivating strong leaders is one of the most important things we can do to support our schools," said Livingston ESA Superintendent Dr. Michael Hubert. “Through this workshop series, we hope to help educators develop the skills and confidence they need to take on leadership roles in their schools and to build a network of supportive mentors and peers.”The Cultivating Leaders workshop series was facilitated by Livingston ESA Assistant Superintendents for Early and Secondary Learning, Sean LaRosa and Jonathan Tobar, respectively, along with Trish Poelke, Principal at Howell Public Schools’ Parker Middle School, and designed to empower participants to recognize their own leadership qualities and how to apply them in their profession and within the community.The series conceptualized the true meaning of leadership and that it is not specific to a job title or supervisor status but rather the building and nurturing of relationships founded on trust and loyalty,  demonstrating that anyone can bring leadership to the table regardless of job title.Cristian LaBar, EarlyOn Occupational Therapist at Livingston ESA, said the series helped “break down and define what characteristics go into leadership and what qualities build the capacity in people to be good leaders – not necessarily leader as in a supervisor – but how can you impact people in a positive way that they look for you or trust in the relationship.” By bringing together educators from across Livingston County, this series served as an invaluable opportunity to cultivate leadership capacity and support members as they step into active formal and informal leadership roles.Emily Clay, a 3rd-grade teacher at Hartland Consolidated Schools, Round Elementary, said, “We all have the same goal.  It’s for the kids.  When you build that community of trust in your building or district, everyone becomes a leader willing to take risks to pursue that bigger goal.” |

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| **About Livingston ESA** |

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| Livingston ESA is a service agency specializing in education.  Our 650-plus employees provide a wide variety of special education, early childhood, career development, and collaborative services to the public and private schools in Livingston County daily.Our services are centered around advancing student literacy, narrowing the socioeconomic achievement gap, supporting student social and emotional well-being, improving student opportunities to learn, and helping our schools by streamlining transportation, broadening the availability of student services, and providing professional development opportunities to enhance the skills of teachers and staff.For more information about Livingston ESA, visit our website at [**LivingstonESA.org**](https://www.livingstonesa.org/), or follow us on [**Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/theLivingstonESA), [**Twitter**](http://www.twitter.com/Livingston_ESA), and [**Instagram**](http://instagram.com/Livingston_ESA).  |

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