

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Dave Kilby**  
**President/CEO**

Connie Davis, the Public Relations Specialist at the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, was among the 66 participants in the first year class of Academy, while Janet Medina Executive Director, was among the 37 participants in the third year class, a professional development program presented by the Western Association of Chamber Executives (W.A.C.E.).

Academy is an interactive 3-day (three year) training program on chamber management essentials designed for today's chamber executives and staff professionals.

"Academy was founded as a program for a new era of chamber management," said Dave Kilby, President/CEO of W.A.C.E. "We congratulate all of the participants and their chambers for having the vision to invest in professional development."

The first year Academy curriculum included three-hour classes on Chamber Trends & Issues, Membership Development & Retention, Budgeting, Legal Issues, Volunteer Development and Marketing & Communications.

The third year Academy curriculum included three-hour classes on Conflict Resolution, Staff Development, Strategic Planning, Dealing with the Media, Creating a Strong Local Economy and Personal Leadership Development.

W.A.C.E is an association of chamber of commerce executives and staff professionals designed to promote and enhance professional development. With over 840 members from fifteen Western states, W.A.C.E. is the largest state or regional association of chamber of commerce executives in the United States.