



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 5, 2015

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**ALAMEDA COUNTY CITIZENS ACADEMY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

***An exciting opportunity for locals to learn about Alameda County***

The Alameda County Citizens Academy is accepting applications for the 2015 class this fall. Formerly known as the Alameda County Leadership Academy, the Citizens Academy is a 6-session interactive program that provides insight to County services and operations and offers opportunities for civic engagement in the County.

This will be the 15<sup>th</sup> year that the County has offered this free program to adults who live, work, or own a business in Alameda County. The Academy will convene bi-weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. between September 23 and December 2, 2015.

The Citizens Academy includes tours of key County facilities, demonstrations of specialized equipment and hands-on exercises that illustrate how vital government services are provided to the community. Through interactive presentations involving County leaders, the Citizens Academy helps people learn about the workings of Alameda County and acquire knowledge about how to increase civic involvement.

Participants learn about the wide range of services provided by Alameda County, its mission, and the budget development process. The sessions allow Academy members to develop their public speaking skills and network with others in the community. The Academy also provides a great opportunity for County officials to hear from the people they serve.

Space is limited. To complete an online application, go to <http://www.acgov.org/academies/citizens/>. The application deadline is **September 3, 2015**. Participants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, though the location of an applicant's home or workplace may be considered in order to provide countywide representation.