

Manager is recognized for excellent leadership

The AgForestry Leadership Program has presented the first Excellence in Leadership Award to Eric Hall, the regional manager of Taylor Shellfish. He was recognized for his work on behalf of orphans and better water quality.

Hall was presented with the award at a gala benefit dinner held recently in Kennewick. The award recognizes graduates of the organization's leadership program who have demonstrated excellence in leadership through their actions following their participation in the program. Candidates for this award are nominated by fellow alumni.

Hall has taken on many challenges since he began the AgForestry Program. He has attended an international leadership seminar to continue his education and skill development. His idea for his leadership project, repairing septic systems along Hood Canal using a private and public partnership, has grown into a program that is making a difference for homeowners along the canal.

He has followed the program closely and continues to speak out about the needs for such partnerships to achieve success in addressing community needs. At the locally based Taylor Shellfish he has moved from the position of a farm manager to a regional manager responsible for all of the farm beds operated by Taylor Shellfish in the vicinity of Grays Harbor County. This has him moving from

farm to farm, attending meetings, and meeting with community leaders about shellfish farming needs.

He also has started a non-profit organization called Angels for Orphans with his late father. Their organization is raising funds for essential items such as clothing, shoes and basic hygiene needs for child orphans in Ukraine. Class 27 of the Ag program visited one orphanage in Ukraine during their international seminar and that convinced Hall that he had the ability, opportunity and duty to act. He has motivated communities, organizations and individuals to contribute to the cause and to causes near home as well. Hall has returned to Ukraine once since graduation and plans to do so again to deliver his first shipment of needed items in 2009.

The AgForestry Leadership Program is a project of the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation. It trains leaders for the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries and rural communities. Since its inception in 1978, the program has graduated over 800 leaders who serve the state of Washington. The leadership program is a cooperative venture between institutions of higher learning and businesses throughout Washington.

Each year up to 25 people from throughout the state are selected to participate in the two-year leadership development program.