

## Lakes & Prairies shares in Best Practice Award presented to West Central Initiative



Nancy Straw, President, West Central Initiative receives the Best Practice award presented by Steve Nagle, Executive Director of West Central MN Communities Action



Leadership Academy participants and Community Action staff from the 4 CAPs listen as award description is presented by Catherine Solheim, Associate Professor Family Social Science, University of Minnesota College of Education & Human Development

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership shared in the "Leadership Academy -- Best Practice" award presented in St. Paul on February 15th. Nancy Straw, President, [West Central Initiative](#) received the award for WCI's leadership in facilitating and providing support for the project. Lakes and Prairies had 4 participants last year and will be sending 7 new Leadership Academy participants this spring. Other CAP agencies sharing in the award were Mahube Community Council, Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council and West Central Minnesota Communities Action.

**The Practice:** Too often, the full potential of leaders goes untapped. The Leadership Academy helps previously undiscovered, low income leaders realize their power and take more active roles in building their communities' future. The Academy provides a space and structure for people to acquire and practice competencies that result in becoming more effective leaders. **The Impact:** Preliminary results are promising, indicating that participants have become more involved in their communities, are accepting formal or informal leadership positions and have become more effective community advocates.