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**Newark Breast Cancer Survivor Completes Intensive Science and Breast Cancer
Advocacy Training in Denver**

Newark – Medha Deoras-Sutliff of Newark recently completed Project LEAD® Institute, an innovative science and advocacy training program for breast cancer activists presented by the National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund (NBCCF) of Washington, D.C. The course was held in Denver, CO from July 29 to August 3.

Deoras-Sutliff, along with 52 other attendees, recently spent an intense five days immersed in a curriculum that includes lectures and study sessions on the molecular biology of cancer, genetics, epidemiology of cancer, epidemiology and research design, and critical appraisal skills needed to understand the scientific literature. The course included a field trip to the nearby University of Colorado Cancer Center to see and hear about significant research firsthand.

“Project LEAD was at once one of the most demanding and rewarding experiences I’ve had,” Deoras-Sutliff said. “I couldn’t have imagined learning so much in so little time. Project LEAD has empowered me as a person and as a breast cancer advocate.”

Project LEAD is NBCCF’s science training course designed to help breast cancer activists influence research and public policy in the wide range of forums where breast cancer research decisions are made. Project LEAD graduates go on to work along scientists to review grant proposals, sit on Institutional Review Boards, participate on planning committees for clinical trials and help explain scientific findings to members of their communities.

The faculty for Project LEAD included renowned scientists from academic and research institutions such as the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, M.D. Anderson, University of North Carolina, Johns Hopkins University, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard University and the Cochrane Collaboration.

Deoras-Sutliff has been a breast cancer activist since she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004. She is currently coordinating the SASS for Breast Cancer, a program funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure and based at the Licking County Health Department. SASS for Breast Cancer provides many types of support to Licking County breast cancer survivors and their families. For information on SASS call (740) 349-6535.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition is a grassroots organization dedicated to ending breast cancer through the power of action and advocacy. Along with its research and education arm the National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund, the Coalition's main goals are to increase federal funding for breast cancer research; improve access to high-quality health care and breast cancer clinical trials for all women; and expand the influence of breast cancer advocates wherever breast cancer decisions are made. For more information, visit www.StopBreastCancer.org. The Avon Foundation is the primary sponsor for Project LEAD, supporting the program for the past 11 years.

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