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LK@KansasChamber.org

835 SW Topeka Blvd.

Topeka, KS 66612

785/357-6321

www.LeadershipKansas.org



Our Mission

Leadership Kansas serves as a catalyst for the continued development of leadership throughout Kansas by:

- Identifying 40 leaders annually from across Kansas,
- Informing those leaders about key state issues,
- Inspiring those leaders to maintain involvement in the social, business, and political fabric of Kansas and their communities,
- And maintaining a cohesive, relevant Leadership Kansas alumni network.

The Program's History

Leadership Kansas is one of the oldest and most prestigious statewide leadership programs in the country. Established by the Kansas Chamber Education Foundation at the encouragement of former Kansas Governor Robert Bennett, and supported and administrated by the Kansas Chamber, the program is celebrating its fifth decade of educating and motivating Kansas leaders from all four corners of the state. Leadership Kansas remains committed to its original mission to inspire Kansas leaders to be involved in the social, business, and political fabric of the state and their communities.

The Program

Leadership Kansas is a statewide program designed to enhance and motivate leaders from various Kansas communities. Each year, Kansans representing a wide variety of occupations in the private, public and non-profit sectors, are nominated to apply for the program. 40 individuals are selected to participate in the program. Leadership Kansas seeks to provide a unique opportunity for these selected leaders to learn about a myriad of topics important to Kansans through six monthly sessions held across the state. More than 1,400 distinguished Leadership Kansas alumni have become better equipped to shoulder important leadership responsibilities in their individual careers, and for their respective communities because of their experience and training through Leadership Kansas.

The Training

Once selected, the class orientation emphasizes leadership skills as well as personal and professional development. Throughout the program's six-monthly sessions, the class meets with recognized experts from a vast array of fields and professions. The class visits a wide variety of communities, organizations, businesses and industries located in urban and rural Kansas. The diversity of discussion topics helps further shape each class member's development. Topics include business, education, agriculture, public policy, societal health and development, economics and government.

Nomination Process

Nomination forms are shared with local and statewide groups, associations, Chamber members, elected officials and individuals. Persons not receiving nomination information are encouraged to visit the Leadership Kansas website to submit nominations online. Nominations are accepted until December 31st of each year. Those nominated are notified and provided information about the program, session dates, costs and the application process.

Application and Selection Process

Once nominated, potential applicants are invited to submit an online application for consideration for one of 40 positions available. Applicants are asked to demonstrate an increasing level of responsibility, potential for continuing to play a leadership role in Kansas, and evidence of professional and personal improvement since completing their formal education. Work experience, scope of personal interests, level of community involvement, and recognition of leadership abilities through receipt of honors and awards also may have significant impact in the final selection process.

Only those willing to thoughtfully complete an application and attend and participate in all six local program sessions and orientation need apply.

The class is hand-selected by a selection committee appointed by the Education Foundation Board who are Leadership Kansas alumni. The committee reviews every application and through a thorough review process makes every effort to ensure that there is proper geographic, occupational, racial, and gender diversity so that each class is truly representative of our state. All applicants not selected for that year's class may apply for a future Leadership Kansas class.

Tuition and Financial Assistance

There is a non-refundable \$50 application fee. Tuition of \$2500 per participant is charged to partially cover program costs and meals associated with the monthly sessions. Upon acceptance into the program, participants will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging expenses. Financial assistance, up to \$1250 per person, may be awarded for those selected to the program who request financial assistance and are approved by the Leadership Kansas Board of Advisors.

The Alumni

Leadership Kansas boasts more than 1400 distinguished alumni from across the state. Graduates of the program leave better educated about Kansas and the key issues impacting the state. They are energized and equipped to shoulder important leadership responsibilities in their careers and their communities. Past program participants include presidents of major corporations and industries, business owners, entrepreneurs, educators, and elected officials.

IMPORTANT DATES

APPLICATION DEADLINE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

CLASS SELECTION ANNOUNCED
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

2020 Program Dates

Class Orientation - Lenexa
July 22nd, Starts at 8:30 am
Ends at 1:00 pm

Session #1 - Northeast
Johnson Co./KCK/Leavenworth
July 22nd – 24th
Ends at 3 pm on the 24th

Session #2 - Southeast
Pittsburg
August 26th – 28th
Ends at Noon on the 28th

Session #3 - Western
Hays/Garden City
September 9th – 12th
Ends at Noon on the 12th

Session #4 – South Central
Hutchinson/Wichita/El Dorado
October 21st – 23rd
Ends at 3 pm on the 23rd

Session #5 – North Central
Fort Riley/Manhattan/Topeka
November 18th – 21st
Ends at Noon on the 21st

All sessions start at different times. Look carefully at the agenda.

NOTE: There are unique "optional" class activities scheduled before the start of each Session on Wednesdays which you are encouraged to participate. Due to the Orientation being in Kansas City, there will be no optional activities in KC Metro unfortunately.