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Leadership Kansas

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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 seven monthly sessions held across the state. More than 1,500 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 seven 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 seven local program sessions and orientation need apply.

The class is hand-selected by a selection committee made of Leadership Kansas alumni appointed by the Education Foundation Board. 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 1,500 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.

2022 PROGRAM DATES

Class Orientation

Lawrence

April 20th, 11 am - 4 pm

Session #1 - Northeast

Lawrence/Ft. Leavenworth

April 21st - 22nd

Ends at 3 pm on the 22nd, followed by LK Alumni Leadership Summit, Grand Reception, and Dinner, 5 pm – 11 pm

Session #2 - Southwest

Garden City

May 18th - 20th

Starts at 5 pm on the 18th*

Ends at noon on the 20th

Session #3 – South Central

Hutchinson/Wichita/El Dorado

June 22nd – 24th

Starts at noon on the 22nd*

Ends at 3 pm on the 24th

Session #4 – Northwest

Goodland or Hays

July 20th – 22nd

Starts at noon on the 20th*

Ends at 2 pm on the 22nd

Session #5 – Southeast

Pittsburg

August 24th – 26th

Starts at 5 pm on the 24th*

Ends at noon on the 26th

Session #6 – KC Metro

Johnson County/Kansas City, KS

September 21st – 23rd

Starts at noon on the 21st*

Ends at 3 pm on the 23rd

Session #7 – North Central

Fort Riley/Manhattan/Topeka

October 19th – 21st

Starts at 10 am on the 19th*

Ends at 3:30 pm on the 21st

Graduation

Topeka

October 21st | 5:30 pm - 9 pm

**You are encouraged to participate in the unique "optional" class activities scheduled on Wednesdays before the start of most sessions.*