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**LEADERSHIP KANSAS  
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**ADMINISTRATION**

**Interim Executive Director**

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## Program Overview: Class of 2026

### Our Purpose & Mission

Leadership Kansas exists to strengthen Kansas by developing informed, engaged, and connected leaders from across the state. The program does this by:

- Identifying **40 established leaders** each year
- Deepening understanding of **key issues shaping Kansas**
- Encouraging **lifelong civic, business, and community involvement**
- Sustaining a **strong, engaged Leadership Kansas alumni network**

At its core, Leadership Kansas prepares leaders not just to succeed, but to serve.

### A Legacy of Leadership

Founded more than five decades ago, Leadership Kansas is one of the **oldest and most respected statewide leadership programs in the nation**.

Established by the Kansas Chamber Education Foundation at the encouragement of former Kansas Governor Robert Bennett, the program has educated and inspired leaders from every corner of the state. For more than 50 years, Leadership Kansas has remained committed to its founding mission: preparing Kansans to lead thoughtfully, responsibly, and collaboratively in the social, business, and public life of the state.

Today, more than **1,600 alumni** continue that legacy.

### The Leadership Kansas Experience

Leadership Kansas is a **statewide, immersive leadership program** that brings together Kansans from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

Each year:

- Individuals are nominated from across Kansas
- **40 participants** are selected through a competitive application process
- The class completes **eight monthly, in-person sessions** held in communities across the state.

Participants gain firsthand exposure to the people, places, industries, and issues that shape Kansas — from rural communities to urban centers — creating a deeper understanding of the state and the connections that bind it together.

## Learning & Development

The program emphasizes both **leadership development** and **personal growth**. Across eight sessions, participants engage with recognized experts and practitioners, visit businesses, institutions, and communities statewide, explore diverse perspectives and leadership styles, and build relationships across geography, industry, and ideology.

Discussion topics include business and economic development, education and workforce, agriculture and industry, public policy and government, health, community development, and societal challenges. The diversity of experiences and conversations helps shape leaders who are informed, grounded, and prepared to lead.

## Nomination & Application Process

Nominations are solicited annually from local and statewide organizations, chambers of commerce, elected officials, and community and business leaders. Individuals may also submit nominations directly through the Leadership Kansas website. Nominations close December 31. Nominees are invited to complete an online application. Applicants must commit to full participation in all eight sessions and orientation.

## Selection Process

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

**CLASS SELECTION ANNOUNCED**  
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

The class is selected by a committee of Leadership Kansas alumni appointed by the Education Foundation Board. Applicants are evaluated on leadership responsibility and career progression, community involvement

and civic engagement, professional and personal growth, and demonstrated leadership potential. The selection committee works intentionally to ensure **geographic, occupational, racial, and gender diversity**, creating a class that truly reflects Kansas. Applicants not selected are encouraged to apply again in future years.

## Tuition and Financial Assistance

Tuition is **\$3,000 per participant**, which partially covers program costs and meals during monthly sessions. Participants are responsible for transportation and lodging expenses. Need-based financial assistance of up to **\$1,500** may be awarded to accepted participants upon request and approval by the Leadership Kansas Board of Advisors.

## A Network That Lasts

Leadership Kansas alumni represent one of the strongest leadership networks in the state. Graduates leave better informed about Kansas and its challenges, more connected across industries and regions, and energized to lead in their careers and communities. Alumni include business owners, corporate executives, educators, nonprofit leaders, entrepreneurs, and elected officials — all bound by a shared commitment to Kansas.

## 2026 PROGRAM DATES

### Class Orientation

Wichita  
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 11 am - 4 pm

### Session #1 – South Central

Wichita  
April 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>  
*Ends at 3 pm on the 17<sup>th</sup>,  
followed by LK Alumni  
Leadership Summit, Grand  
Reception, and Dinner,  
5 pm – 9 pm*

### Session #2 - Southwest

Dodge City/Garden City  
May 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

### Session #3 – North Central

Salina  
June 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

### Session #4 – Northwest

Hays  
July 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

### Session #5 – Northeast/Central

Lawrence/Ft. Leavenworth  
August 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

### Session #6 – KC Metro

Johnson County/KC, KS  
September 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

### Session #7 – Southeast

Pittsburg  
October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

### Session #8 – Northeast

Topeka  
November 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>  
*Ends at 3:00 pm on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Graduation to follow  
from 5:30 - 9 pm*

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