



West Des Moines
Leadership
Academy

wdmleaders.org

4200 Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

A program of the West Des
Moines Chamber of Commerce

What can the WDMLA do for you?

Purpose

The purpose of the West Des Moines Leadership Academy (WDMLA) is to provide individuals with the opportunity to develop and enhance their leadership style and skills, to learn about issues facing our community and to motivate participants to become involved in leadership roles and service for the betterment of West Des Moines.

What can the WDMLA do for you? Attending the WDMLA will create many outstanding opportunities for you:

- Become acquainted with WDM community issues and operations
- Understand the forces that create community change
- Get to know current community leaders and form lasting relationships with other Leadership Academy participants
- Enhance personal leadership qualities and skills
- Develop a spirit of commitment to the community
- Discover community leadership opportunities to help shape the future of WDM

Mission

The West Des Moines Leadership Academy will:

- Provide an opportunity to develop and enhance leadership skills
- Educate participants regarding issues facing our community
- Stimulate increased participation and service for the betterment of our West Des Moines community

Vision

The West Des Moines Leadership Academy will be recognized as the premier organization in developing leaders to direct and ensure quality living for residents, businesses and organizations of West Des Moines.

Who should attend the West Des Moines Leadership Academy?

The WDMLA is designed for existing and emerging leaders who desire to further develop and fine-tune their leadership skills and gain a greater understanding of the area's economic, civic and community network. Business and professional people, current community leaders, directors/board members of non-profit organizations, representatives from the public sector and interested residents are encouraged to apply.

What's in it for my company?

Your company will benefit from a proven development program that helps expand your scope and reach. The West Des Moines Leadership Academy will:

- Increase your companies community exposure and name recognition
- Create opportunities to market your company or organization
- Develop your employees and improve retention. The WDMLA is often used as a recruiting tool, and as a vehicle for on-going professional training



The program

The West Des Moines Leadership Academy is a unique nine-month program designed to help develop leaders in our community. This interactive program will combine hands-on training, panel discussions, site visits, and speaker presentations to engage leaders in our community, and create a greater awareness and understanding of our leadership needs in the years to come. The WDMLA program will focus on developing active leaders in the areas of city government, education, business development, civic and community involvement, non-profits and charities. Classes will be held the third Thursday of the month from September through May. Class times are from approximately 3:00–8:00 pm, except for the September class which will be approximately 12:00–8:00 pm.

Class size and representation

Class size is limited to provide the best environment for interaction, real-life applications and outstanding learning opportunities. Each class will be comprised of participants representing a cross-section of the community.

Requirements

Participation is open to people who live, work or have an interest in West Des Moines. The selection committee will seek participants who demonstrate:

- Commitment and motivation to serve West Des Moines
- Responsible position of leadership in employment and/or volunteer organizations resulting in potential to have influence on important issues
- Ability to make the time commitment required by the program



Tuition

The tuition for the West Des Moines Leadership Academy includes course binder, hand-out materials, presenter fees, group transportation, meals and class certificate. The cost is as follows:

- West Des Moines Chamber members: \$1,200
- Non-Chamber members: \$1,400
(includes one-year single membership to WDM Chamber)
- Chamber members (non-profit): \$800
- Non-Chamber members (non-profit): \$1,000
(includes one-year single membership to WDM Chamber)

Sponsorships

There are many sponsorship opportunities available to those businesses who wish to partner with the West Des Moines Leadership Academy. These funds are used to help supplement costs of the program and create scholarship opportunities. If you are interested in being a sponsor of the WDMLA, please contact info@wdmleaders.org.

How to apply

You may submit an application online by visiting www.wdmleaders.org. Each candidate must provide two letters of recommendation addressing demonstrated leadership ability, character credibility, and community interest and involvement.