



11 Public Square, Suite 400B
Hagerstown, MD 21740
phone: 301.393.5323
info@leadershipwashingtoncounty.org
www.leadershipwashingtoncounty.org

APPLICATION INFORMATION – LWC CLASS OF 2021

Program Concept

The core leadership program was established in 1987 under the name Leadership Hagerstown, in cooperation with the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, the organization became the Washington County Leadership Development Program, Inc., a separate 501 (c) 3 non-profit, know as Leadership Washington County within the community. The organization began as a response to a need for a common meeting ground of shared concern among leaders in all sectors of the community. A community's greatest assets are its people and that is certainly true in Washington County, MD. Graduates of Leadership Hagerstown and Leadership Washington County can be found as board members of non-profits, elected officials, mentoring area youth, chairing events, managing projects, and helping their own organizations develop and prosper.

Program Goals

The objective of Leadership Washington County is to develop and enhance community leadership by offering participants from diverse backgrounds a unique opportunity to explore, up close and personal, the challenges and issues facing the Washington County community. The Leadership program takes a select group of individuals from diverse backgrounds through an intense 10-month program during which they develop or strengthen their network of contacts and actively engage in issues around topics such as economic development, arts and culture, education, local and state government, and poverty and human services.

Impact

As the only organization of its kind in Washington County, Leadership Washington County is helping to build a more engaged and informed community by tapping into the talents, passions, and intellectual capital of the women and men who live and work in the Washington County. The program's curriculum encourages critical thinking and creative problem solving. As a result of the experiential and cooperative learning opportunities, aspiring leaders return to their organizations more connected to the community overall and more knowledgeable about being a servant leader. Most significantly, participants in the program become invested in local issues, which leads to increased civic engagement.

Program Design

The Leadership Washington County program begins with a **mandatory two-night retreat, September 18-20th** and continues with a series of sessions meeting one day (8am-5pm) each month from October through June. Class members have the unique opportunity to plan a program day of their choosing—for example: Education, Local Government, Health, Business and Economic Development, Quality of Life, and Cultural Heritage. The LWC Program Committee plans the Human Services, State Government, and Boardmanship/Governance program days. To accomplish the objectives of the program, the full participation of each individual is required and attendance during program days must be free from personal and business responsibilities. LWC allows one full day or two half day absence from a program day.

Selection Process

Leadership Washington County seeks potential leaders as well as individuals who have already attained leadership positions in the community and/or their place of employment. A group of approximately 30-40 participants is selected annually from the for-profit and non-profit business sectors as well as representatives from government, education, and religious organizations and other community groups. Nominations are welcome from the community, but not required for application to the program. Members of the LWC Board of Directors and Program Committee interview all applicants and submits a list of selected applicants to the entire LWC Board of Directors for approval. Interviews are conducted during the month of April, and applicants are informed of their acceptance in mid May. The class of 2021 will be selected from applicants who have submitted the application, resume, letter of recommendation, application fee, and any applicable scholarship criteria by March 27, 2020.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2020-2021 program year is \$3,000 and may be paid by the individual or sponsoring organization. A \$75 non-refundable application fee (***from personal funds***) must be submitted with the completed application. If selected, you will be billed for the full tuition amount of \$3,000. The application fee represents your personal commitment to the program and is required of each applicant. The application fee is in addition to the tuition amount. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Benefits of Graduation

The Leadership Washington County experience extends beyond graduation. Non-profits from the area look to graduates of the program to serve on their boards and to chair community projects. Graduates of Leadership Washington County also enjoy many networking opportunities with our 900+ graduates when they become a Graduate Member. Graduate Members receive access to graduate-only events such as our Best Lunch Ever series, Graduate Program Days, and discounted registration for LWC's Welcome Reception, Holiday Party, and Graduation Celebration.