



THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

CLASS OF 2026 INFORMATION

LEARNING FROM LEADERS

The Leadership Institute is an innovative approach to the traditional leadership model. Exceptional individuals strengthen their skills through interactive discussions and critical analysis. Professionals from diverse backgrounds learn from senior level executives across many sectors resulting in a truly unique educational experience.

The program integrates leadership skill building with valuable networking opportunities. As participants explore leadership styles, examine options and establish relationships, they gain the skills necessary to make a more valuable contribution to their employers.

FORMAT

The Leadership Institute begins with a two day retreat at the end of August. The retreat will begin the leadership training, personal development and team building processes. Subsequent sessions of the Institute are held once a month, from October through March, with graduation in March. Each full-day session runs from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Attendance at the retreat and all sessions is mandatory to complete the program. Each monthly session focuses on one major skill building topic. Components of the day include keynote speakers, panel discussions and interactive group learning opportunities.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Ideal candidates for participation in The Leadership Institute are individuals poised to make the transition to a higher level within their organization, are eager to advance professionally and to assume increased responsibility. They have a constant thirst for learning and seek out educational opportunities in their work setting and personal lives.

COMMITMENT & COST

The Leadership Institute requires a significant commitment by participants and their employers. Each participant is required to attend the overnight retreat and all monthly class sessions. **Program tuition is \$2,750 for Chamber members and \$5,500 for non-Chamber members.** Partial scholarships are available based on need. The tuition covers program costs for the retreat, monthly sessions, all program materials, meals and graduation ceremony.

APPLICATION & SELECTION

Please fill out the application form completely and return it to the Chamber by **Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** Enrollment is limited; some candidates, including those with strong credentials, may not be selected and are encouraged to reapply to the program the following year. Applications received after the registration deadline will not be accepted.

To ensure an environment where participants can explore their leadership potential, only one representative per member or non-member organization will be accepted into the Leadership Institute class each year.

For more information or questions contact the Chamber at 518.687.1244.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS SAYING ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



"At CDPHP®, we invest in The Leadership Institute to give area professionals access to training and connections that open doors. I am proud to say that dozens Institute and have gone on to make positive changes within the four walls of CDPHP and beyond. Thank you to the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce for continuing to provide our community with this transformational program."

BRIAN O'GRADY
PRESIDENT & CEO, CDPHP



"I continue to be impressed with The Leadership Institute participants' level of engagement, enthusiasm for learning and demonstrated interest in adding value to their communities. By the time each year's cohort reaches their final session, which focuses on the nonprofit sector's best practices for governance and the art of trusteeship, they are bound together as a group, coalesced through their shared learning experiences during the prior seven months. This comprehensive program provides an opportunity to not only build individual leadership skills and expand one's professional network, but it invites self-reflection and encourages deeper engagement with the participants' employment situations and their surrounding communities as a way of putting these new skills and awareness to good use. Everyone-the whole community-benefits from this highly interactive, experiential leadership development program."

TERI BORDENAVE
PRINCIPAL 7 FOUNDING PARTNER, THE THALIA GROUP LLC



"The Leadership Institute provides a strategic advantage for organizations who participate. The Leadership Institute is cultivating the next generation of dynamic leaders, individuals who possess the vision, resilience, and collaborative spirit our region needs. I've experienced the transformation these professionals undergo, and I'm confident they will be the driving force behind our community's continued growth."

FREDERICK A MILLER
CEO, THE KALEEL JAMISON CONSULTING GROUP INC. AND AUTHOR OF THE POWER AGENCY, CULTIVATING AUTONOMY, AUTHORITY, AND LEADERSHIP IN EVERY ROLE

ALISON VANDERVOLGEN
CURATOR OF OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND LEGAL COUNSEL, THE KALEEL JAMISON CONSULTING GROUP INC., CLASS OF '18



"The Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Institute is more than just a program- it's a transformational experience that shapes leaders, strengthens communities, and builds lasting connections. As a proud graduate of the class of 2014 and the co-chair for the class of 2025, I can confidently say this program was one of the most impactful experiences of my professional and personal journey."

STARLETTA RENEE
CEO, YWCA OF THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION INC. & CO-CHAIR CLASS OF 2025 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



"As a 2012 Graduate and 2018 Chair of the Rensselaer Chamber Leadership Institute I can say without hesitation that it has impacted my personal and professional life in more ways than I can count. The lessons I learned, the confidence I gained, the network I built were just some of the incredible benefits that I gained being a part of this incredible program and group of professionals. It is to this day my number one recommendation for individuals looking to grow their skillset, achieve their goals and truly become a leader in the region."

VICTORIA HOSTIG
PRESIDENT, BLUEPRINT STRATEGIES AND CONSULTING

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE IS A PROGRAM OF THE RENSSELAER COUNTY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce
90 Fourth Street, Suite 200, Troy, NY 12180
www.RenscoChamber.com | (518) 274-7020

CLASS OF 2026 SKILL SETS & SESSION DATES

RETREAT
AUGUST 28 and
AUGUST 29, 2025

LEADERSHIP &
STRATEGIC THINKING
OCTOBER 3, 2025

COMMUNICATION
NOVEMBER 7, 2025

WORK/LIFE/SELF
INTEGRATING
DECEMBER 12, 2025

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
JANUARY 9, 2026

HUMAN RESOURCES &
INCLUSION, DIVERSITY,
EQUITY and ACCESS
FEBRUARY 6, 2026

BOARD DEVELOPMENT
& SERVICE
MARCH 6, 2026

GRADUATION CEREMONY
& DINNER
MARCH 24, 2026

125
YEARS