



CLASS OF 2027 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 necessary skills 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 two-day 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 13, 2026 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 518.274.7020



WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS SAYING ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE:



"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. Everyone in the community benefits from this highly interactive and 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 because the 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."

REDERICK 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 that 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



"For many years, CDPHP has been a proud supporter of The Leadership Institute, recognizing the invaluable role this program plays in developing the Capital Region's next generation of leaders. Our investment reflects the CDPHP belief in strengthening our community by empowering professionals with the connections and confidence to make a meaningful impact. We are grateful to the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce for its continued dedication to offering this transformational experience."

Nick Kraft

Chief Customer & Engagement Officer, CDPHP®

CLASS OF 2027
SKILLS SETS &
SESSION DATES

RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 3 and
SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

LEADERSHIP &
STRATEGIC
THINKING
OCTOBER 2, 2026

COMMUNICATION
NOVEMBER 6, 2026

WORK/LIFE/SELF
INTEGRATION
DECEMBER 11, 2026

FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT
JANUARY 8, 2027

HUMAN RESOURCES
& INCLUSION,
DIVERSITY, EQUITY
AND ACCESS
FEBRUARY 5, 2027

BOARD
DEVELOPMENT &
SERVICE
MARCH 5, 2027

GRADUATION
CEREMONY & DINNER
MARCH 23, 2027



RENSELAER COUNTY
REGIONAL CHAMBER

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

