



## Leadership Hall County

Strong leadership is a key ingredient in the continuing development of a thriving community. The Greater Hall Chamber's Leadership Hall County (LHC) program prepares emerging and existing leaders to be integral players in the future of our community. Participants gain knowledge from the overall program on relevant issues facing our community, now and in the future, thus preparing them for an active leadership role in the community.

### HISTORY

Since its inception in 1983, more than 1,000 men and women representing the diversity of our community have completed this program and taken their place as leaders in the community. Among the alumni are state politicians, federal judges, corporate CEOs, civil rights leaders, successful entrepreneurs and non-profit leaders, devoted educators and dedicated community volunteers.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Through a series of sessions combining lectures, dialogue among speakers, tours, and audience interaction with those who are civic leaders, professionals and academicians, participants learn about such topics as:

Economic Development	Public Safety	Regional Issues
Education	Social Services	Healthcare
Leadership Development	Tourism	Politics
Agriculture	History of Hall County	Quality of Life

While each year follows a similar format, each year's agenda is adjusted to meet the specific needs and interests of the class while also staying abreast of current events and new venues.

### WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

LHC participants develop leadership skills and knowledge of our community. They become familiar with current issues, community resources and social, political and economic needs, thereby becoming better qualified and more encouraged to take an active role in the decision-making processes within the community. Participants enjoy unforgettable experiences and relationships that pay dividends personally and professionally. The connections made with classmates and the interaction with top community leaders adds value to this program well before and long after graduation. They graduate with a deeper breadth of understanding of our community as well as their role in it. Participants discover issues that they are passionate about and are equipped with new knowledge, networks, and ideas to impact our community as an effective leader.

## **WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO BE ACCEPTED?**

Nominations are open in January of each year. An individual may nominate themselves or may be nominated by a firm, an organization or individual. Following the nomination period, nominees will be asked to complete a detailed application. Applications are then released on March 15 and are to be submitted back to the Chamber office by the close of business on April 14. The applications are reviewed by the Selection Committee and the new class is named in early May.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Class members are chosen by their own merits based upon their application. The committee seeks representation from a cross-section of the community including business, labor, education, the arts, religion, government, and social services.

In reviewing applications, the Selection Committee looks for participants who strongly demonstrate the following criteria:

- ✓ Must be working and be in good standing and hold positions of leadership with their employer. We look for both emerging and established leaders, with the right mix providing the richest experiences. The ideal candidate is a middle or upper-level leader.
- ✓ Are interested in and actively involved with the Greater Hall Chamber.
- ✓ Demonstrate potential to have significant influence on community issues through policy shaping responsibility and positions of leadership.
- ✓ Exhibit previous volunteer experience and desire to expand involvement within the community.
- ✓ Have obvious potential for growing personally and effecting change externally.
- ✓ Are willing to commit the time, energy, and positive attitude necessary to complete the program.
- ✓ Reside and/or work in Gainesville/Hall County with the intention of doing so long enough to have a lasting and meaningful impact to the community.
- ✓ There are no age restrictions or limitations. Class members typically range in age from their 20's to their 60's.

## **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?**

LHC begins each summer in August with our annual INTRO program. 11 program days then occur monthly with graduation in June. Program days typically last from 7:45 am until 5:00 pm.

Outside of class time, students must complete a group project (4-6 hours) together as well as the following independent homework assignments:

- Ride-a-long with the Hall County Sheriff's Office or Gainesville Police Department (4 hours)
- Attend a Gainesville City Council and a Hall County Commission meeting (4 hours)
- Attend a Gainesville City and a Hall County Board of Education School Board meeting (4 hours)
- Attend a Greater Hall Chamber Board of Directors meeting (2 hours)
- Attend a Chamber Business After Hours (2 hours)

100% participation and completion of all requirements is mandatory in order to graduate from LHC. Any portion of days missed must be made up. This is a serious time commitment, and participants not complying with the attendance requirements will be dismissed from the program.

**TUITION:**

Tuition for each participant is \$900 for Chamber members and \$1,100 for non-Chamber members plus a one-year Chamber membership for their company. Nonprofit tuition is \$700. Each participant is responsible for paying his/her own tuition. Fees are used to cover materials, monthly program expenses, graduation reception, and graduation plaque.

For more information, contact the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, 770-532-6206.