



LEADERSHIP WICHITA

Advance Leadership. Broaden Perspective. Strengthen Community.

Leadership Wichita is an immersive program that aims to motivate individuals to take up influential roles in their community. The program offers valuable insights into various areas such as local government, economic development, education, media, non-profit and public safety. It is an excellent opportunity for individuals who aspire to be community leaders and make a positive impact.

These sessions provide participants with first-hand experiences like acting as principal for a day, doing a police ride-along, firearm simulation, meeting Wichita City Council Members and Sedgwick County Commissioners, influential business leaders, reporters, economists, students and more.

Leadership Wichita was introduced in 1983 with more than 1,000 local business, community, government and military leaders graduating from the program with a commitment to becoming stronger leaders for the community.

Those interested in participating in Leadership Wichita must be nominated, submit an application, and complete an online reference form. The Leadership Wichita Board of Trustees selects 30-35 individuals, who will attend sessions from August through December.

A diverse class will be selected based, in part, on:

- Community Involvement
- Bringing a unique perspective to the program
- Their proven ability to build community
- A willingness to learn and grow as a leader
- A passion that will help move our community forward

2026 PROGRAM DATES

May 28: Nominations Due
June 12: Applications Due
July 22: Class Announced
August 6 to December 4: Program Runs
December 15: Graduation

Nominations can be made online at wichitachamber.org

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Angie Elliott, Chief Program Officer
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce
aelliott@wichitachamber.org

PROGRAM WITH A PURPOSE

Purpose

- Advance Leadership
- Broaden Perspective
- Strengthen Community

Principles

- Community Building
- Power of Perspective
- Passionate & Courageous

Experience

- **CONNECT:** Creating community through shared experience.
- **EXPOSE:** Encountering experiences, perspectives and voices that influence Wichita.
- **CHALLENGE:** Provoking courageous conversations.
- **EMPOWER:** Inspiring action that will maximize leadership potential & strengthen community.

2026 SCHEDULE

THE STRATEGIC WICHITA VISION - PART I 8 am to 5 pm | August 6

The class will receive an orientation to the overall program. The Wichita region will be discussed from an economic perspective and team-building exercises will be a part of the session.

THE STRATEGIC WICHITA VISION - PART II 8 am to 5 pm | August 7

Participants will complete a visioning process for Wichita. Community advancement strategies will be discussed and Leadership Wichita Trustees will join the group for part of the session.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 8 am to 5 pm | August 21

An immersive look at how Wichita grows through talent, business, and place. Participants will hear from key leaders, explore downtown firsthand, and collaborate on strategies to attract and retain opportunity in the region.

PRINCIPAL FOR A HALF DAY Early September

Class members will individually shadow USD 259 school principals for half a day to understand what leadership in Wichita's largest school district looks like on a daily basis.

THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT 8 am to 5 pm | September 11

Consensus building is key to government. Learn and discuss current issues facing government and the importance of consensus. Meet our city and county leaders and discuss the future of our community.

STAYING INFORMED IN WICHITA 8 am to 5 pm | September 18

A working understanding of the media and how perceptions are formed is essential for all leaders. Media and news are delivered in a wide array of formats. You will be connected to local communications and marketing leaders who are innovating to meet the changing needs of today's society. They will lead you through an immersive discussion and an exploration of how you perceive media and news.

AN EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITY 8 am to 5 pm | October 2

A highly-educated, world-class workforce is vital to the future of our community. The class will hear from education leaders and discuss current educational policies and governance issues.

FIRST RESPONDER RIDE-ALONG & DECISION-MAKING (TBA)

This experience offers a firsthand look at how law enforcement, fire, EMS, and dispatch work together to protect the community. Participants gain insight into real-time operations and how critical thinking, communication, and legal boundaries, particularly in law enforcement, shape high-pressure decisions.

SIMSOC: A SIMULATION EXPERIENCE 8 am to 5 pm | October 16

An exercise in conflict resolution, communications situations and social change as a method of developing leadership skills will be conducted. Participants will experience a variety of interactive situations demanding decisions.

PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP 8 am to 5 pm | November 6

Protecting community safety is a core responsibility of local government and requires collaboration across multiple disciplines. This session features local public safety leaders discussing current threats, community crisis situations, and opportunities to strengthen coordinated public safety efforts.

SHAPING A CARING COMMUNITY 8 am to 5 pm | November 20

Nonprofit organizations play a vital role in strengthening and sustaining our communities. They serve as the foundation for meeting local needs, fostering connection, and driving meaningful change. Through innovation, determination, and a deep commitment to service, nonprofits help bridge critical gaps and empower our city to live out its mission and vision. Participants will gain insight into how these organizations uplift community members, create opportunities, and contribute to a more equitable and thriving future for all.

CALL TO ACTION 8 am to 5 pm | December 4

In this session, the class will participate in facilitated discussions about information given during the program, personal reflections and takeaways, and post-program action items.

LEADERSHIP WICHITA GRADUATION 6 pm to 8 pm | December 15

Presenting Sponsor



BlueCross BlueShield
Kansas

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.