

LEADERSHIP OLATHE—Preparing leaders. Building community.

- ✓ Equip yourself with new, cutting edge leadership tools you can use in the workplace, at home, and in the community.
- ✓ Find out how to apply your skills to help meet community needs and assume leadership roles.
- ✓ Establish relationships with leaders from business, government and non-profit sectors of the community.
- ✓ Meet city, county, and state leaders and interact with expert speakers and facilitators.
- ✓ Gain insights into issues that have an impact on your community and learn where and how you can get involved to help improve the community.



What is Leadership Olathe?

Leadership Olathe, a program of the Olathe

Chamber of Commerce, has been identifying, educating, inspiring and engaging leaders since 1982. Designed to hone the skills of key leaders and equip them to help meet

“Leadership Olathe was instrumental in my being involved in various community and city groups. This community needs more leaders and LO encourages people to take the next step and get involved.”

—Tom Manning, Manning Construction Co., Inc.

the challenges and opportunities of the community, the program accomplishes the following:

- It broadens the base of local leaders.
- It enhances awareness of local issues.
- It increase understanding of different perspectives.
- It encourages citizen involvement in important civic leadership roles.
- It opens doors for leaders with the desire and ability to shape the future of the community.
- It helps shape, preserve, and promote a common vision for the community.

The five-month program begins in January and consists of eight full-day sessions. Each Leadership Olathe participant makes a significant commitment of time. Training includes face-to-face time with local and state leaders and on-site visits to local agencies, institutions, organizations, and businesses.

Interactive sessions center on in-depth discussions about Olathe’s history, economic development, community resources, education, workforce development, social services, local government, the role of the Olathe Chamber, and of course, leadership development.

Who attends Leadership Olathe?

Over almost three decades, more than 700 people have graduated from this program and stepped into important roles within the community. The program has produced a dynamic core of informed, action-oriented individuals who understand their community and are prepared and eager to contribute.

Participants are people from small and large businesses and public and non-profit organizations. Among the high visibility alumni are Governor Mark Parkinson, Kansas Senator Karin Brownlee, Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland, Superintendent of Schools Marlin Berry, Gary Morsch, founder of Heart to Heart International, and a variety of well-known business leaders.

The Olathe Chamber chooses participants through a selection committee and seeks diversity in every class.

The Chamber seeks nominations from businesses, governmental entities, and a variety of non-profits.

Many organizations nominate promising employees and pay for their participation. Some of those that have regularly sent employees through Leadership Olathe are Olathe Medical Center, Garmin International, the City of Olathe, Johnson County Government, Olathe Junior Service League, YMCA, area banks and credit unions, Johnson County Community College, and Olathe District Schools.

The Chamber accepts nominations, too, from leaders eager to find training such as this who choose to apply on their own.

“My involvement with Leadership Olathe helped equip me to lead my business and take on leadership roles in various civic and community groups and activities. Getting a behind the scenes look at local agencies and entities gives you an insight that would be difficult to gain any other way.”

—Greg Oswald,
Sir Speedy Printing &
Marketing Services



How to apply!

1. Fill out an application, available at www.olarthe.org.
2. Include two letters of recommendation.
3. E-mail your applications and letters to info@olarthe.org or mail to the following:

Olathe Chamber of Commerce
 Attn. Leadership Olathe Alumni Steering Committee
 18001 W. 106th St., Suite 160, Olathe, KS 66061

Tuition: \$1,000 for Chamber members
 \$1,200 for non-members

Payment is due in full before the first session.
 Scholarships may be available for those who qualify.
 Please contact the chamber at 913-764-1050 for details

“As a graduate of Leadership Olathe Class, I can honestly share that this program was a great blessing. Through the program I developed lifelong relationships as well as the opportunity to prepare myself for a more informed and engaged role within my community. As a pastor of the historic Second Baptist Church, I was able to interface with a diverse array of local civic leaders as well as elected officials on all levels of government and provide my unique voice in the overall shaping my community.” — **Rev. Bobby Love**, Second Baptist Church

“Leadership Olathe provided me with an incredible opportunity to learn about the past, present, and future of Olathe. More importantly, Leadership Olathe connected me to the...leaders of my community – the movers and shakers that I would be interacting with as I launched Heart to Heart International.” — **Gary Morsch**, Heart to Heart International

“I have attended many leadership programs over the years, and none covered all facets of community leadership as well as Leadership Olathe. It has provided me with a network of individuals and ... insight into ways I can get involved in my community.... Many of the people I met through the program have become customers or friends for life.” — **Brian Geary**, Community America Credit Union

“Leadership Olathe was a great experience for not only me, but my wife Charlene, our daughter Abby, and my brother Curby. We have all been through leadership Olathe, and it has been extremely helpful in our knowledge of the how things work in our community. We have developed important relationships with other people we have met in the class. Our business has also benefited.” — **Eric Hughes**, Strickland Construction

“Leadership Olathe raised the bar for me personally and professionally by allowing me to recognize my strengths. Learning how to work out of my strengths versus my weaknesses has increased my ability to be more effective in the day-to-day operations of my life. Leadership Olathe to me was a priceless investment for me.” — **Michelle Gressel**, Residence Inn



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 Building community.**



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Olathe Chamber of Commerce
 18001 W. 106th St., Suite 160
 Olathe, Kansas 66061

www.olarthe.org
 (913) 764-1050



OLATHE
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 ONE VISION. ONE VOICE.



A leadership program of the
 Olathe Chamber of Commerce.