

Leadership St. Louis[®]

A program of FOCUS St. Louis[®]

Building leadership capacity to strengthen the region

About the Leadership St. Louis Program

Each year since 1976, Leadership St. Louis has conducted a competitive application process and selected approximately 65 existing and emerging leaders from the region to participate in a nine-month program designed to:

- Help participants acquire an understanding of the critical issues affecting the region
- Develop the leadership and stewardship capabilities necessary to resolve those issues
- Create a stronger communications network among participants who come from different backgrounds and have diverse interests
- Facilitate access between participants and the current, top leadership in the region
- Inspire participants to address community challenges and produce visible and positive change

Leadership St. Louis has brought together individuals who otherwise might not have had the opportunity to interact, ranging from corporate executives, entrepreneurs, educators, nonprofit managers, and public servants. Leadership St. Louis plays a critical role in ensuring that the talent pool from which the community can draw its future leaders is replenished.

Program alumni have been inspired to launch new nonprofit agencies, start businesses, and run for political offices. They serve on hundreds of boards and provide thousands of hours of volunteer work. FOCUS alumni and members are leaders who make a difference.



Leadership St. Louis' lasting legacy is its graduates. More than 2,000 St. Louisans from the private, public, and civic sectors have participated in the program, acquiring the skills, knowledge, and passion necessary to participate effectively in the life of our community.

Nomination Process

Leadership St. Louis seeks high potential and established leaders who demonstrate high standards of personal integrity, the ability to set and attain goals, a record of achievement in community activities, a desire to increase community involvement, and the commitment of time necessary to complete the program. The program strives to ensure that classes represent the broad diversity of the community, and nominations for Leadership St. Louis are sought and encouraged from all parts of the region. Individuals may also nominate themselves. The nomination process opens in early November.

Nomination forms can be completed online at www.focus-stl.org. **All nominations must be received by Friday, March 17, 2017.**

Nominees are informed of their nomination and sent application materials which must be completed and returned by **Friday, April 7, 2017**. Once all materials are reviewed, applicants will be asked to participate in two personal interviews with Leadership program graduates. Applicants must have the ability to attend all sessions (barring extreme emergencies) to be eligible for participation in the Leadership St. Louis class.



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Program Dates 2017-2018

All programs are on Friday and Saturday with the exception of the March dates, which are on Tuesday and Wednesday.

September 8 & 9, 2017 ----- Overnight Retreat
October 6 & 7, 2017 ----- Seminars
November 3 & 4, 2017 ----- Seminars
December 1 & 2, 2017 ----- Seminars
January 5 & 6, 2018 ----- Seminars
February 9 & 10, 2018 ----- Seminars
March 6 & 7, 2018 ----- Jefferson City (overnight)
April 6 & 7, 2018 ----- Seminars
May 4 & 5, 2018 ----- Overnight Retreat

Program Fees and Financial Aid

The tuition for the 2017-18 Leadership St. Louis program is \$5,000, payable by check or money order on or before Friday, July 14, 2017. Often the tuition is paid by the participant's employer. Partial financial aid, made possible through the generosity of past directors, our alumni, and funders, is available to participants with a demonstrated need upon acceptance.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

About FOCUS St. Louis

FOCUS St. Louis is the region's premier leadership organization, preparing a diverse base of leaders to work cooperatively for a thriving St. Louis region through our experience-based leadership training, civic issue education and public engagement initiatives. As a neutral convener, FOCUS engages citizens to deliberate on critical regional community issues in a trusted, nonpartisan space.

FOCUS offers a continuum of eight leadership programs to engage leaders from high school students to senior executives.

Program Days/Site Visits

From September to May, participants meet one Friday and Saturday each month from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The opening and closing sessions are both overnight retreats. The classroom for the Leadership St. Louis program is the community itself. Topics typically covered during the year include economic development, education, government and politics, poverty and social services, the criminal justice system, health care, race relations, the environment, and the arts.

Experiences may include the following:

- Riding on a night patrol with area police
- Debating the significant issues in area schools with teachers and superintendents
- Visiting a shelter and sharing a meal with people who are homeless
- Exploring a case study on an important regional issue
- Debating the significant issues in area schools with teachers and superintendents
- Going backstage with the directors of and performers for an area arts organization
- Weighing state and local priorities with the governor in Jefferson City
- Having in-depth dialogues about leadership with the CEOs of the region's largest corporations



Program participants may also use their own contacts and resources to create special opportunities for the group, giving their classmates an opportunity to learn about the causes and organizations with which they are involved.

For More Information

Visit our website www.focus-stl.org to complete the nomination form or contact Nikki Whetsell, Program Coordinator at nikkiw@focus-stl.org or 314-657-4022.