2026 - 2027 LEADERSHIP DEFIANCE COUNTY APPLICATION

PRESENTED BY DEFIANCE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mission

To develop future community leaders for Defiance and surrounding areas through education, experience, and involvement.

Description

The Leadership Defiance County Program is a ten-month program, beginning in August with ten full-day, once-a-month sessions. Classes will be from 8:30am to 4pm. Through a combination of speakers and on site tours, the program focuses on regional civic issues, economic sectors, and leadership development. Please see the schedule below for anticipated program dates on the following Fridays *(schedule subject to change).*

2026		2027	
August 28th	Orientation & Team Building Day	January 22nd	Criminal Justice & Civil Service Day
September 25th	Education Day	February 19th	Healthcare Day
October 30th	Government Day	March 19th	Service Industries & Non-Profits Day
November 20th	Media & the Arts Day	April 23rd	Manufacturing & Transportation Day
December 18th	Real Estate & Agriculture Day	May 21st	Financial Services & Graduation Banquet

Selection Criteria

The 2026 - 2027 class will be selected from the pool of qualified applicants. Applicants must have the approval of their employers and will be selected based on community involvement and leadership potential. Preference will be given to Chamber members and their employees.

Participants

Approximately 15-20 people per year, representing a cross-section of the various business sectors of the community, participate in the program. Both individuals and their organizations benefit from the contacts in the community, increased knowledge of the Northwest Ohio area, and enhanced professional skills.

Tuition

Tuition for 2026 - 2027 class is $995 for current Chamber members and $1,195 for non-members. This is payable by the candidate, employer, or sponsoring organization. Payment is due by August 14, 2026.

Commitment

Participants must have the full support of their employers or sponsoring organizations, as there is an attendance requirement. The August orientation is mandatory and attendance at eight of the nine remaining sessions is required in order to complete the program. There may be selected reading assignments and additional meetings/events outside of the monthly sessions.

Application Deadline is August 7, 2026.

Application forms may be obtained by visiting: **https://www.defiancechamber.com/leadership-defiance-county/.** All applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decisions.

Thank you to our 2026 – 2027 Corporate Sponsor Northwest State Community College

LEADERSHIP DEFIANCE COUNTY
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Personal Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Home Address: _____
Employer/Sponsoring Organization: _____
Employer Address: _____
Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Length of Residence in NW Ohio: _____

Education (high school, college, advanced degree, or specialized training) - Please include name and city of school, graduation date, and degree.

School Name & City	Graduation Date	Program of Study / Degree

Employment History - Please include Employers, Job Title, and Dates of employment.

Employer	Job Title	Dates of Employment

Current Employment Sector

- ☐ Government
- ☐ Non-Profit
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Retail
- ☐ Education/Childcare
- ☐ Financial Services
- ☐ Media &/or Communications
- ☐ Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
- ☐ Real Estate
- ☐ Manufacturing/Industrial
- ☐ Hospitality/Restaurant
- ☐ Other: _____

What do you consider your highest responsibility, skill, or career achievement to date?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Community Involvement

Please list current and former involvement in community, civic, professional, business, religious, social, athletic, volunteer, and other organizations. Please include organization name, dates of membership/service, and official positions.

Other Interests/Hobbies

Expectations - One of the goals of the Leadership Defiance County Program is to build a network of community leaders who can enhance their problem solving and other leadership skills through shared perspectives and working together.

What are your expectations of participation in the Leadership Defiance County Program?

What assets will you bring to the Leadership program and to the community?

What do you feel are the most significant challenges facing your industry & Northwest Ohio today?

What do you feel needs to be done on one of those issues?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Candidate Commitment

Attendance is expected at all sessions. To graduate from the Leadership Defiance County Program, you must attend the orientation day in August, as well as 8 of the 9 of the remaining sessions, September through May. The class meets on one Friday a month, as laid out in the calendar on the introductory page.

Tuition for the Leadership Defiance County Program is $995 for current Chamber members and $1,195 for non-members. This covers all program costs including materials, meals, etc. for the program. Payment must be made by August 14, 2026. If selected, an invoice will be mailed with your notification letter. *Tuition is non-refundable*.

If selected as a Leadership Defiance County Program participant, I understand that I am committing myself to this attendance, tuition obligation, and involvement in the community upon graduation from the program.

Candidate Name (print): _____

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

Employer Commitment:

This application has the approval of this organization and the applicant has our full support, which includes the tuition and the required time to participate.

Employer/Manager's Name (print): _____

Job Title: _____

Work Phone:_____ Email:_____

Employer/Manager Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Please note: this completed application must be signed and sent by August 7, 2026, via:

- Email to michelle.marshall@defiancechamber.com
- Mail to Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce, 519 Clinton St., Defiance, OH 43512
- In-person drop off at the Chamber Office during business hours (Monday – Friday from 9am to 4pm)