

Leadership Wisconsin

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Group XIV Application Deadline: November 1, 2009

Developing Leaders to Strengthen Communities

LEADERSHIP WISCONSIN formerly the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program is a partnership between the University of Wisconsin System and a private Board of Directors designed to provide a vibrant pool of leaders for Wisconsin communities.

Within the University of Wisconsin System, UW-Extension provides administrative support and the UW Foundation manages contributions to the program. The following institutions provide instructors and other support to the program:

UW-Extension - Cooperative Extension
UW-Madison - College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
UW-Platteville - College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture
UW-River Falls - College of Agriculture
UW-Stevens Point - College of Natural Resources

The Board of Directors and the University of Wisconsin System invite you to become part of Group XIV--a very special group of people who will learn and share about the broad range of issues facing Wisconsin communities. Leadership Wisconsin provides equal opportunities in programming including Title IX and ADA requirements.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Leadership Wisconsin candidate should be old enough to have demonstrated their leadership abilities and young enough to make significant leadership contributions beyond their completion of the program. Applicants are residents of Wisconsin who reflect the diversity and richness of backgrounds, cultures and experiences of the people of Wisconsin which greatly enrich the growth and development of the group as a whole. Applicants will be selected based on the following criteria.

Demonstrated Leadership Potential

Applicants must have some experience in leadership activities. The applicant must provide evidence to demonstrate his or her leadership qualities and potential as indicated by community, organizational, or governmental activities listed on the application.

Leadership Potential after the Program

An evaluation is made of each candidate's likelihood for potential contributions over a substantial period of future years to Wisconsin through growth and experiences gained from the program. Graduation from the program is not a true end-point; rather it is a starting point for the next stage in their leadership journey. Graduates have the expectation and responsibility to ensure their continued and even expanded active leadership in the state of Wisconsin.

Breadth of Perspective on Issues and Knowledge of Wisconsin

Each candidate will be evaluated for his or her long-term commitment and concern for a broad scope of issues of importance to Wisconsin.

Open-minded

Each candidate will be evaluated for evidence that he or she is open to considering different ideas and views, that he or she exercises creativity in thinking, and that he or she does not approach problems with fixed conclusions.

Personal Characteristics

The applicant's character, reputation, and financial responsibility as evidenced by references will be of high quality; reflecting personal characteristics that are important in providing leadership in Wisconsin.

Potential to be a Productive Participant

Each candidate will be considered in terms of willingness to learn new perspectives, and ability to contribute to and benefit from seminars and other program activities.

Potential to Work Effectively with People

The applicant must demonstrate and celebrate his or her ability to work well with others, to communicate effectively, to motivate others, to celebrate individual differences, to set goals and devise action plans to meet those goals, to make decisions, and to influence others' decisions. A successful applicant will demonstrate that he or she wants to work with, learn from, and share with other people.

Commitment to Participate

Each applicant must be fully committed to be involved and participate in all of the study/travel seminars. Self-employed applicants must demonstrate ability to be away from their enterprise for the required amounts of time. If an applicant is not self-employed, in view of the time that will be spent away from the job as required by participation in the program, the applicant must have the written support of his/her employer. In addition, spouses/partners of applicants are asked to sign a statement demonstrating they have discussed and understand the time commitment the program entails.

Other

If both members of a couple wish to apply, each must complete an application form. However, it is our policy not to have both spouses/partners involved in the program, in the same group.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Applications can be accessed via our website at www.leadershipwisconsin.org. Applications can also be obtained via mail, fax, or email.
2. Completed applications, along with letters of reference, should be postmarked, faxed, or emailed by **November 1, 2009**. We encourage you to allow sufficient time to prepare the materials in order to meet the deadline.
3. Applicants should arrange to have three letters of reference sent directly to the Leadership Wisconsin office at the address below. See attached sample letter to copy and forward to your references.
4. The applicant's spouse/partner must complete the Spouse/Partner Statement of Support, which demonstrates their understanding of the time commitment this program entails. This statement must accompany the completed application.
5. If the applicant has an employer or a business partner, his or her employer/business partner must sign the attached Employer/Business Partner Statement of Support for the applicant's candidacy for the program. This statement must accompany the completed application.

Applications will be screened and potential candidates invited for an interview in January/February 2010. Interviews will be scheduled at various locations around the state. Candidates will be notified of final selection in February/March 2010. All accepted fellows are required to attend an Orientation Session to be scheduled in April/May 2010.

Due to the limited participant capacity, not all qualified candidates are chosen. Individuals are strongly encouraged to re-apply in subsequent years.

Before forwarding your application make sure that you have enclosed or completed the following.

- Signed Application
- Spouse/Partner Statement
- Employer or Business Partner Statement of Support
- Requested 3 letters of reference

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