



# Commitment Statement

## Participant Expectations

Leadership Lafayette has become a community institution and boasts many of this area's most distinguished leaders as graduates. If selected, you can expect an exciting year that exposes you to some of our community's biggest assets, most daunting challenges, and most interesting people.

Participants should bring an open mind, a commitment to serving Acadiana, and a willingness to listen and learn, regardless of any potential conflicting perspectives.

Participants are asked to contribute to discussions and to allow others the opportunity to contribute. Leadership Lafayette is not a standardized program—each class will undergo a unique experience. Participants should be ready to engage, build camaraderie with classmates, and to embrace new perspectives in a professional manner.

Any disciplinary issues or inappropriate behavior (disrespect to fellow classmates or presenters, prohibited use of communication devices, excessive tardiness, absenteeism, misrepresentation of program values, etc.) during the program period will be addressed with the candidate by the Leadership Lafayette Chair(s) and reported accordingly. Subsequent issues can result in dismissal by the Leadership Institute of Acadiana Executive Committee. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, the candidate may be removed, without reimbursement, from the program.

Respectful interaction with presenters and invited guests is an essential part of the Leadership experience. **Therefore, there is a strict no cell phone policy during class time.** Class members may use their cell phones and other communication devices during breaks and other designated times to be determined by day chairs, etc.

## Participant Attendance and Participation

Attendance is crucial for class members to have a successful year. To recognize the value and to preserve the integrity of the totality of the Leadership Lafayette experience, full attendance is required.

- Participants must commit to attend the opening retreat and all scheduled class days. A full list of specific dates is listed under the commitment agreement.
- Attendance at the opening retreat is mandatory. **Failure to attend any portion of the opening retreat for any reason, will disqualify a member from participating in the class.**
- The program year allows for *one* absence of a monthly session. More than one absence will result in dismissal. One absence is defined as missing one full day or two half days. Failure to attend retreats and class days without a valid reason shall be considered by the Executive Committee as cause to be eliminated from the program.

**Graduation is contingent upon participation.** The Leadership Institute of Acadiana Executive Committee reserves the right to make graduation decisions contingent upon the candidate fulfilling all the program requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, attendance, team exercises, homework, class participation, and demeanor.



LEADERSHIP LAFAYETTE  
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# Commitment Agreement

I understand and acknowledge the purpose and commitment of Leadership Lafayette. To graduate from the program, attendance and participation is required for the following:

- Orientation and Happy Hour: January 23, 2020
- LIA Annual Meeting: TBA
- Two-day opening retreat: February 9-10, 2020
- 9 full-day sessions, generally from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm unless otherwise noted:
  - Friday, March 6, 2020
  - Friday, April 3, 2020
  - Tuesday, May 5, 2020
  - Friday, June 5, 2020
  - Friday, July 10, 2020
  - Friday, August 14, 2020
  - Friday, September 11, 2020
  - Friday, October 9, 2020
  - Friday, November 13, 2020
- Graduation: Thursday, November 19, 2020
- Additional program coursework such as inter-session activities, participation in community events, and/or independent research

If selected, I understand the commitment of time and participation:

- I have read and understand the program expectations, attendance, and participation policy.
- I have discussed with my employer and they are in full support of my participation.
- I understand that if I fail to meet any part of the obligation of participating, I will be removed from the program with no portion of my tuition refunded.

If selected, I understand the financial commitment:

- I understand that program tuition is \$2,000
- I understand that the balance of tuition is due no later than **January 15, 2020**.
- I understand that after the opening retreat, **no portion of the tuition is refundable**.

I certify that the information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand the above commitment and agree to be bound by it in signing this application.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Employer Consent

This candidate has my full support to participate in Leadership Lafayette. I am aware of the time commitment for successful participation, as well as the financial obligation incurred, either on part of the participant, our organization, or a third party. I understand that after the opening retreat, no portion of the tuition is refundable.

Employer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_