

Program Overview

Whether you have lived in Lauderdale County for a short time or all of your life, Leadership Lauderdale will help you discover what is happening in the community and how you can get involved.

Monthly Learning Sessions

The seven, one-day sessions are held each second Wednesday, November to May, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. At each session, local business and community leaders will share their knowledge through lively discussions and activities that highlight real situations, needs and opportunities within the area. In addition, a study of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* provides introspection and development of leadership potential.

Leadership Lauderdale also offers first-hand experience through “Go-See-Hear” tours of local industries, historic sites, entertainment and educational facilities, local infrastructure, workforce development agencies, and many other businesses and community resources.

Retreat

Leadership Lauderdale is built on strong fundamental leadership principles. At the two-day class retreat held in October at Lake Tiak O’Khata attendees will participate in a number of networking and team-building activities designed to demonstrate the dynamics of effective leadership. The retreat allows class members to push themselves and provides the skills and confidence necessary to lead. Team-

building activities will expand on important themes such as communication, trust, consensus-building and empowerment.

Class Project

The class project is integral part of the Leadership Lauderdale experience. Participants work with fellow classmates to implement a project benefitting Lauderdale County. The Leadership Lauderdale process provides participants with the guidance and tools to turn concepts into workable projects and solutions. The project process culminates the Leadership Lauderdale experience, utilizing ideas generated during class sessions to develop a community enhancing project.

Enrichment Activities

One of the primary goals of Leadership Lauderdale is to encourage individual involvement in leadership roles within the community. Throughout the program, participants get a birds-eye view of the issues facing the community. Enrichment opportunities are made available to class participants to further enhance their community knowledge. Such activities include opportunities to engage in community service or exposure to some of the many cultural offerings in the area. Leadership Lauderdale encourages participants to learn by doing so that they may apply their talents by becoming a part of professional associations, civic clubs, public boards and commissions.

Leadership Lauderdale Guidelines and Information

Attendance and Class Days: Class days are held every second Wednesday of the month, November-May. Participants may not miss more than one class day in order to graduate. Attendance at the out-of-town retreat on October 18th-19th, 2011, is mandatory. Graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 12th. In addition, participants will be required to take part in enrichment activities and a class project. Participants with more than 1 absence may not be eligible for graduation and may be required to repay the \$500 community scholarship if provided.

Selection Criteria and Application Review:

The selection criteria are civic involvement, leadership potential, diversity of perspective and commitment to the leadership program and the community. Participants must be a resident or employee in Lauderdale County. A commitment from the employer to allow time for the employee to participate is required. No more than two employees per company or organization may participate.

Tuition: Tuition in the Leadership Lauderdale program is \$500.

Scholarship/Financial Assistance: Partial and full scholarship funds are available, based on need, and will be considered only after candidate selection is made. Scholarships are available as needed. Applicants should indicate request for financial assistance on their application.

Applications must be returned to the EMBDC before September 2, 2011.

Participant Testimonies

“What an excellent program! Leadership Lauderdale combines a great venue, relevant topics, superb staff and speakers with a diverse background of local leaders interested in the future of the community. This program provides an optimum environment for the growth of our community and its future leaders.”

Randy Pope
Mississippi Air National Guard

“Leadership Lauderdale strengthened my commitment to Meridian and Lauderdale County. It gave me the opportunity to learn about the community’s history, embrace the present, and plan for the future while inspiring others through leadership to do the same.”

Mary Kate Duncan
Anderson Regional Medical Center

“Anyone who aspires to become a leader in Meridian and Lauderdale County should take advantage of the Leadership Lauderdale program. This program gives you the opportunity to interact with many of the current leaders of Meridian and Lauderdale County while also learning more about your Leadership Lauderdale classmates--the area’s future leaders. Each Leadership Lauderdale class begins the program with an understanding of the unique challenges of the area, but after completing this nine-month program, the graduates leave with an understanding of how they can help the area overcome these challenges.”

Cedric Bradley, Ph.D
Meridian Community College

What is Leadership Lauderdale?

Sponsored by the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, the Leadership Lauderdale program began in order to provide existing and emerging leaders with opportunities to enhance their civic knowledge and civic network. For more than 10 years, this program has helped participants better understand how our community works, build relationships with the area’s current and future leaders and become inspired to focus talents in a way that will best serve the community. Leadership Lauderdale participants develop the leadership skills necessary to assume leadership roles and also become exposed to involvement opportunities in the community.

Schedule:

2011

October 12-13: Retreat

November 9: Business Development

December 14: Workforce Development

2012

January 11: Physical Infrastructure

February 8: Social Infrastructure

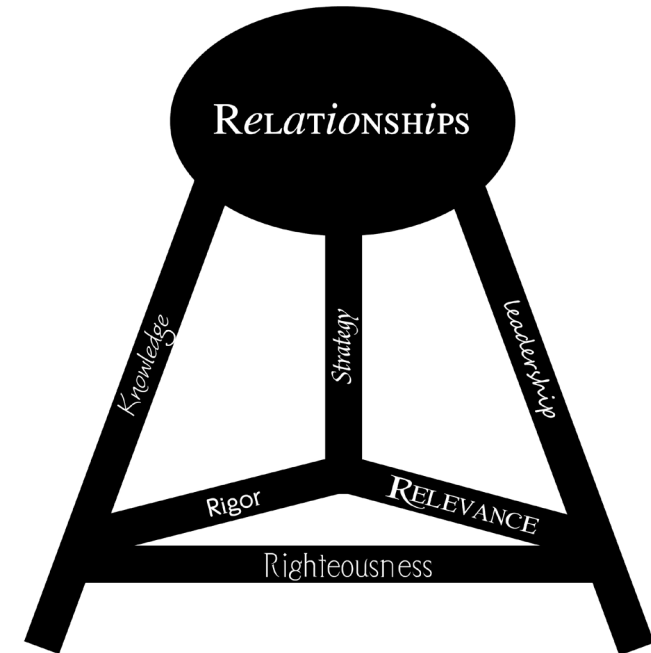
March 14: Heritage Preservation

April 11: Civic Infrastructure

May 9: Project Presentation Day

June 12: Graduation

2011 - 2012 Leadership Lauderdale



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