



MARSHALL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2025-2026

APPLICATION PACKET

Due: June 11th, 2025

**Are you ready for a new professional or personal challenge?
Is it time to reinvest in yourself?
Are you hoping to be more involved in the community?
Would you like to learn more about Marshall?**

Marshall Leadership Academy (MLA) is hosted by the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce. This program is designed to build community leaders. MLA provides participants with a unique opportunity to turn knowledge into action through classroom experiences, hands-on activities, and community awareness.

This program had been in place for over 15 years (1998-2013), and we brought it back in 2021. We are excited to have another MLA in 2025-2026! We are looking to educate and develop our leaders to better themselves and their community.

Over the period of nine months, participants will experience 9 days of sessions. Each participant will be assigned to a project group, which will assess community needs, determine a project, and facilitate the project working with other community members and/or groups. Group work will culminate with a group project presentation at graduation. Class size is limited. Participation in the program will require acceptance of your application.

Leadership Cultivation

Participation in this program will allow you to:

- Have a better understanding of the fabric of the Marshall area community.
- Become familiar with the countless opportunities available for involvement.
- Increase your awareness of local issues.
- Build personal and professional relationships, creating a broader exchange of ideas.
- Interact with local leaders.
- Experience Marshall through the eyes of civic, non-profit, and business leaders.
- Work with a group project to enhance life in Marshall.
- Communicate effectively with others.
- Thoughtfully utilize team members' skills and diversity.

Here's what past participants have said after going through the program:

"I would recommend the Marshall Leadership Academy program to everyone. It opened my eyes to all the different facets of what makes our local economy function. From government affairs and education to all the businesses you don't know or hear about, to all the ways I could become an active member in our community. MLA introduced me to key people in our community and helped me cultivate many long-lasting friendships."

-Jeremy Gossen, Carlson & Stewart Refrigeration, Inc, MLA Alum (2009)

"From the lifelong connections I made with my classmates, to the business contacts I connected with during the class, to learning about the different opportunities and businesses offered in Marshall; Marshall Leadership Academy has helped me grow tremendously as an employee and a leader. Each of the experiences has helped me get to where I am today, and I know they will continue to help me in the future. I would recommend MLA to anyone looking at becoming more involved in Marshall and wanting an opportunity to learn more about our community. I truly believe that MLA offers an experience unlike any other and allows for the attendees to live up the Marshall slogan: Cultivating the Best in Us."

-Luke Tietz, BMO, MLA Alum (2022)

"MLA provides an opportunity to explore the hidden gems of Marshall and gives you exposure to parts of our community that otherwise you may never be aware of."

-Sarah Ackerman, Western Mental Health Center, MLA Alum (2003)

"I highly recommend Marshall Leadership Academy to any aspiring leader looking to get more involved in the Marshall community. As a lifelong resident of Southwest Minnesota, I was amazed to discover the many professional opportunities available in Marshall. At the same time, MLA helped me develop as a leader and community member. Through this program, I was introduced to valuable connections that have allowed me to grow both personally and professionally."

-Melissa Maranell, Avera Marshall, MLA Alum (2024)

GENERAL INFORMATION ON APPLICANT

Print or Type Clearly

First and Last Name: _____

Preferred First Name (if different than above): _____

Business /Organization Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Business Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Best email for communication: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

How did you hear about the Marshall Leadership Academy? Choose all that apply.

- Friend(s)
- Past Participants
- Chamber Newsletter
- MLA Leader
- Employer
- Social Media
- Other _____

What areas of involvement are you interested in around Marshall?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What do you think are the top three issues facing Marshall?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What do you think are three great opportunities Marshall has to offer?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are you hoping to gain in this program?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

COMMITMENT FORM

Attendance:

Participants are expected to attend all sessions and be on time. Participants missing more than one of the nine sessions will be encouraged to make up the sessions the following year. Carefully consider your availability to meet on the dates outlined for the program. Session dates are:

**(2025) September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th
(2026) January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, May - TBD**

Sessions will run from 9:00am-4:00 pm, with some exceptions.
Graduation date is to be determined.

Group Projects:

In addition to the monthly sessions, you will be part of a community service project group. Time commitment will be determined by a consensus of the members in your small group. There will be time allowed during some monthly sessions for group project discussions.

Tuition:

Pay by September 4th, 2025

Marshall Chamber Members

\$600

Non-Members

\$700

Upon acceptance, ALL TUITION MUST BE PAID-IN-FULL by September 4th, 2025.

YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I have read the Marshall Leadership Academy materials and have made appropriate arrangements for program time commitments. I agree to participate in all program sessions.

Name (PRINTED)

Signature

Date

REFERENCES

Reference listed, please return 'FORM C' to brad.gruhot@marshallmn.org.

We request **two** separate reference forms per applicant.

Thank you for your willingness to support a participant in Marshall Leadership Academy!

Leadership Applicant Name: _____

Reference Name: _____

Business /Organization Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Business Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Best email for communication: _____

About the Applicant:

Why do you feel they would be a good candidate for the class?

What do you hope they will gain from participating in the class?