



MARSHALL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2026-2027

APPLICATION PACKET

Due: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

**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 2026-2027! 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 and network effectively with others.
- Leverage the unique skills and diverse perspective of team members.

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, First Independent Bank, 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'm incredibly grateful I went through the Marshall Leadership Academy. Even though I grew up in Marshall, I didn't need a program like this. But going through it opened my eyes to the amazing work happening in Marshall and the surrounding communities. It truly blew me away and made me even more proud to call this area home. I would highly recommend that anyone take the time to participate—you'll learn so much and meet some truly great people along the way!"

-Brent Snodgrass, Edward Jones, MLA Alum (2022), MLA Co-Chair (2023-2025)

"After Healthcare Day with MLA, I found myself thinking about who might be a great fit for the 2026–27 Marshall Leadership Academy cohort, because MLA truly has something to offer for anyone looking to grow — whether they're an entrepreneur, a leader within their organization, or new to the community and wanting to get connected with others. One of the things I've valued most about being part of the Leadership Academy is the connections I've made across the community. MLA has pushed me to grow not just as a leader at Avera, but as a leader within the Marshall area. Through MLA, I've built relationships I wouldn't have made otherwise and found myself stepping into roles I never expected — including joining new boards like United Way, the Marshall Area Chamber, and the Tyler Area Foundation. It's also just fun to see the lasting impact. I regularly run into other cohort members in the community, and there's this shared sense of purpose and belonging that sticks with you long after the program ends. MLA really does help you understand what our area has to offer and how you can be part of shaping it."

-Melissa Maranell, Avera@Home, 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. _____

Would your business be interested in being a future host or sponsor of Marshall Leadership Academy?

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:

(2026) September 10, October 1, November 5, December 3

(2027) January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6

Sessions will run from 9:00am-4:00 pm, with some exceptions.

Graduation will be Tuesday, May 6, 2027 and is held during the evening hours - please plan accordingly.

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 10th, 2026

Marshall Chamber Members

\$600

Non-Members

\$700

Upon acceptance, ALL TUITION MUST BE PAID-IN-FULL by September 10, 2026.

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?