



I N D E P E N D E N C E

A Program of the Independence  
Chamber of Commerce

## Purpose of L.E.A.D. Independence

“To provide a broad-based source  
of informed leaders with a  
commitment to the continuing  
growth and development of our city.”



I N D E P E N D E N C E

Leadership

Education

Action

Development



I N D E P E N D E N C E

Independence

Chamber of Commerce

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Today's  
Commitment  
to Tomorrow's  
Independence

Independence  
**Chamber**  
of Commerce

# What Is It?

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*L.E.A.D. Independence was one of the first leadership programs developed in the U.S.*

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L.E.A.D. Independence was created by the Independence Chamber of Commerce to provide a network of informed leaders with a commitment to the continued growth and development of our City. L.E.A.D. Independence provides a road map for successful community involvement to the individuals and issues that make Independence distinctive.

# How Does It Work?

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*Selected candidates participate in a structured eight-month program.*

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In October, the class gathers for a mandatory two-day orientation team-building retreat. October through May, the class meets on the third Thursday of each month for an eight-hour session.

Class members form task forces to explore a variety of timely issues. Issues for discussion have included such topics as education, health care, government, tourism, image, social services and economic development.

The task forces research their subjects and present information to the class through guest speakers, tours, panel discussions, informal question-and-answer sessions and on-site visitations. A variety of community leaders and experts are invited to participate in these sessions. Each task force is challenged to devise innovative programs on their subject.

# Who Benefits?

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*Everyone! The community, the candidate and sponsoring organizations.*

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The community receives an expanding source of informed, dedicated leaders. The candidates obtain a wealth of information about Independence, as well as involvement with key leaders in the community. The sponsoring organizations benefit from the management development of their participants, in addition to achieving better community relations due to the networking of the men and women in L.E.A.D. Independence.

As part of the required coursework during the year, class members will fulfill a commitment of 8 total hours of community service time.

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## Remember!

To be considered for the 2009 L.E.A.D. Independence class, applications must be submitted to the Independence Chamber of Commerce by July 15, 2008. For more information, contact the Chamber at 816-252-4745 or visit [www.independencechamber.org](http://www.independencechamber.org).

# What Happens at the End?

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*The end of the program is not the end of the participant's involvement.*

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Graduates are encouraged to become active in the community. The alumni association provides educational and social opportunities for participants to continue to meet. Alumni also assist in planning future programs. A directory of all participants is distributed annually and each person's community interests are identified throughout. In its 23-year existence, the program has graduated more than 490 individuals.

# How Can I Participate?

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*Candidates must submit applications to the Chamber of Commerce.*

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Deadline for receiving applications is July 15, 2008. Businesses or organizations may nominate individuals or a person may self-submit. Every participant is expected to provide his or her own tuition, either privately or through an employer. A limited amount of scholarship assistance is available. The tuition of \$600 covers the cost of the initial retreat, all classes and materials, meals and graduation expenses.