



Around the Northwest

Issue 1, February 2025

Our Mission

We build, strengthen, and inspire leaders through training and networking experiences.

Our Vision

We envision thriving communities and dynamic leaders.

Our Values

- L-Lead
- N-Network
- W-Worth
- M-Motivate
- O-Opportunities

Our History

In December 1999, community leaders from Northwest Missouri came together at Conception Abbey to brainstorm about regional issues. One of the issues that came out of this forum was the need for leadership development on a regional scale. The group concluded that while there are many outstanding local leadership development programs in our communities and an excellent statewide program, there are no programs that address leadership development at the regional level.



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Scan the QR code above to visit our website, where you can read the most current press releases, find dates of upcoming LNWMO class sessions, and more in between newsletters!

Class of 2025

Welcome to our 2025 class members!

Name	Company/Organization	Work Co.	Home Co.
Shelbie Alexander	Carroll County Memorial Hospital	Carroll	Linn
Brook Anderson	Community Hospital Fairfax	Atchison	Holt
Shane Anderson	Golden Triangle Energy	Holt	Holt
Kaley Coulter	Northwest Missouri State University	Nodaway	Nodaway
Shadow Evans	Cintas	Buchanan	Buchanan
Lori Generaux	Altec	Buchanan	Buchanan
Cheyenne Graff	Brookfield Area Growth Partnership	Linn	Linn
Heather Hays	City of Maryville	Nodaway	Nodaway
Mike Hill	BTC Bank	Harrison	DeKalb
Brooke Johnson	BTC Bank	DeKalb	Daviess
Morgan Jones	Saint Luke's	Livingston	Livingston
Bubba Miller	Farmers State Bank	Buchanan	Buchanan
Heather Miller-Ansley	Gower Chamber of Commerce	Clinton	Buchanan
Sharon Paxson	Mosaic Life Care	Worth	Worth
Ashley Pittman	Carroll County Memorial Hospital	Carroll	Carroll
Brittney Siddens	Harrison County Community Hospital	Harrison	Gentry
Kim Surprise	Northwest Missouri State University	Nodaway	Nodaway
Jennie Thomson	Community Hospital Fairfax	Atchison	Atchison
Stephanie True	Atchison County Development Corporation	Atchison	Atchison
Madalyn Walker	North Central Missouri College	Andrew	Andrew
LaTonya Williams	Bartlett Center & St. Joseph School District	Buchanan	Buchanan

Class of 2025

January 22-23: Opening Retreat

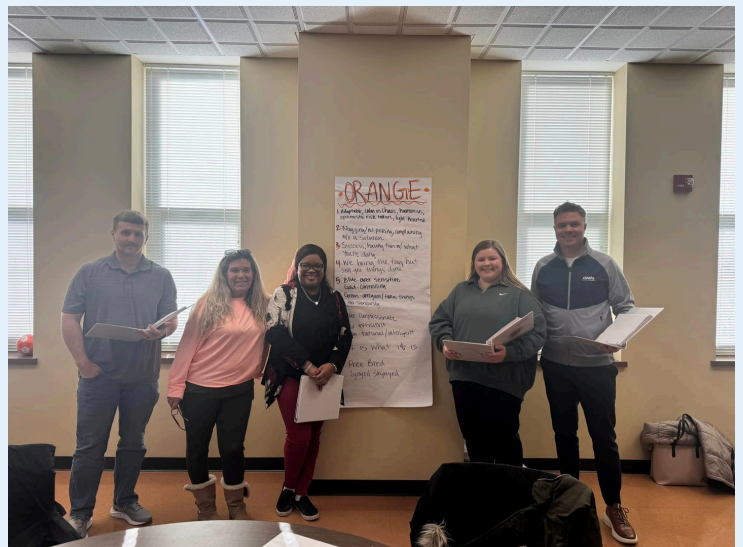
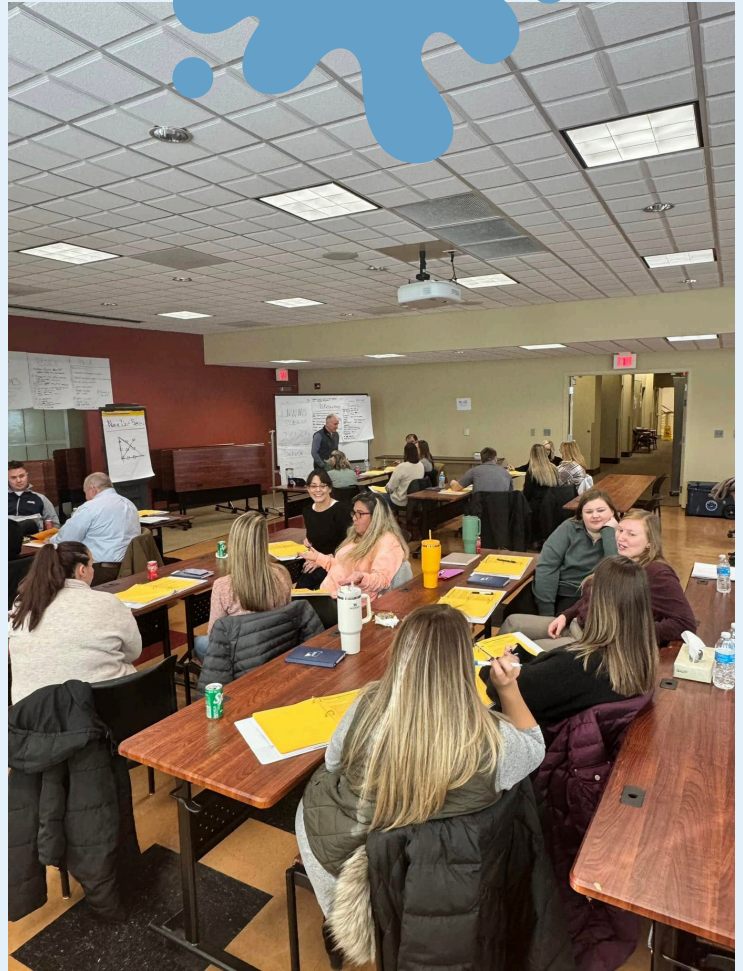


Twenty-one women and men came together to begin their leadership journey with the two-day kick-off retreat, January 22 and 23, at Conception Abbey. The opening retreat is where participants are introduced to Leadership Northwest Missouri and their class project. The remainder of their time together is spent on building relationships with their classmates and team development with Dr. Tim Crowley.

Snacks for the retreat were provided by Ameren and Vestas. Planning Committee Members included participants from the 2024 class: Jeff Agnew, Rachel Brown, Lauren Dannar, Victoria Masucci, Ethan Pival, Wes Rockwood, Valarie Shisler, Ashley Turner, and Tocarra Williams.



Class of 2025



Class of 2025

What new class members had to say...



First row: Mike Hill, Jennie Thomson, Brooke Anderson,
Kaley Coulter

Second row: Shelbie Alexander, Ashley Pittman,
LaTonya Williams

Third row: Heather Hays, Morgan Jones,
Madalyn (Walker) Kapp

Fourth row: Kim Surprise, Heather Miller-Ansley,
Sharon Paxson, Brittney Siddens

Fifth row: Brooke Johnson, Stephanie True,
Lori Generaux

Sixth row: Shadow Evans, Shane Anderson

Back row: Bubba Miller, Cheyenne Graff

"It is amazing how you can build so much trust and understanding and influence in just 36 hours together. It is truly a testament to how effective this program is and I am counting down the days until we meet again."

Bubba Miller, Buchanan Co.

"My retreat at the abbey was such an emotional reset. The insights I gained and the relationships I made during the experience were truly remarkable. It's amazing to share that kind of time with such a great group of people in such a beautiful and peaceful place."

Ashley Pittman, Carroll Co.

"The January Retreat was an amazing kickoff to Leadership Northwest, pushing us out of our comfort zones to learn, grow, and build meaningful relationships with other leaders across NW Missouri. I returned to work energized and full of new ideas to better serve my team and community."

Brittney Siddens,
Gentry & Harrison Co.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Leadership Northwest Missouri retreat. I loved that we were welcomed on the same level regardless of where we were in our leadership journey. I left the experience with a restored energy for Northwest Missouri and 20+ new friends and colleagues."

Kim Surprise, Nodaway Co.

Board & Alumni

Board Members

Matt Barry–President
Jackie Spainhower–Vice President
Kasi Norris–Secretary
Lesley Delaney–Treasurer
Sarah Battreall
Melissa Birdsell
Marcie Cutsinger
Brittany Higgins
Michelle Skinner
Carolynn Sollars
Cole Soptic
Carrie Watkins

Kendra Pickering – Executive Director

Upcoming Meetings

February 13, Zoom
March 13, Zoom
April 10, Zoom
May 8, Zoom

ALUMNI

Do you need to update your records with LNWMO?

Click on the update icon below to update your records on-line so you don't miss out on future communications.

UPDATE

Click on "update" image above to go to the website and update your information.

Board Member Spotlight Kasi Norris



Kasi Norris, a 2022 graduate of LNWMO, embodies a passion for fostering growth and building connections. As the Director of Programs at Second Harvest Community Food Bank, Kasi leads initiatives that strengthen food security and improve lives in the region.

Kasi joined the Leadership Northwest Missouri Board of Directors to continue applying the skills gained during the program while giving back to an organization that helped shape her leadership journey. She is dedicated to helping Leadership Northwest Missouri grow and thrive, ensuring its transformative impact continues to reach future leaders.

When Kasi isn't making a difference through her work or board service, she enjoys traveling to new destinations, cheering on her favorite teams at sporting events, and spending quality time with her fiancé and their beloved cats.

Keep in touch via Facebook by clicking on the links below!

[Leadership Northwest Missouri](#)

[Leadership Northwest Missouri Alumni](#)

[Leadership Northwest Missouri](#)

[Community Events](#)

Board Activities

Strategic Doing Session held November 14, 2024

At their November board meeting, the Leadership NW Board of Directors engaged in a facilitated Strategic Doing session to identify key initiatives for the upcoming year. This session, hosted by board member Carolyn Sollars at Altec in St. Joseph, was led by Board Member Jackie Spainhower, who recently earned certification as a Strategic Doing practitioner.

The session began with a visioning exercise centered on an appreciative question: "Imagine if Leadership NWMO was the go-to leadership development program in the region. What would that look like?" Board members then identified and shared their individual assets—skills, expertise, and resources—they were willing to contribute to bring this vision to life.

As a result of the facilitation, two focused projects emerged:

1. Evaluating and enhancing LNWMO's branding (logo and website)
2. Developing supplements for alumni and others to the existing leadership programming

The two newly formed committees will continue to make progress on these initiatives in 2025. Stay tuned for updates!



Click icon above to go to survey.

Help the Curriculum Committee by answering a short survey about leadership training needs.

Save the Date



Leadership Northwest Missouri is once again partnering with emPowerU to offer Take the LEAP, a one-day leadership training for youth.

Watch your email for registration to open soon.

2025 Sponsors

Leadership Northwest Missouri is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization. The vitality of this program depends upon the commitment of dedicated individuals, businesses, and organizations. For more information on how you can contribute to the success of this program, whether through participation as a corporate sponsor or by making a tax-deductible contribution, contact any of our alumni, email: leadershipnorthwestmissouri@gmail.com, or click on the big blue heart to link to our 2025 donation/sponsorship page. (Descriptions of each sponsorship level on next page.)

Affiliate

Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri

Program Sponsors

PLATINUM

BTC Bank

GOLD

Altec

Farmer's State Bank

SILVER

Carroll County Memorial Hospital

Hedrick Medical Center/Wright Memorial Hospital

Mosaic Health System

North Central Missouri College

Northwest Missouri State University

US Bank

BRONZE

St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce



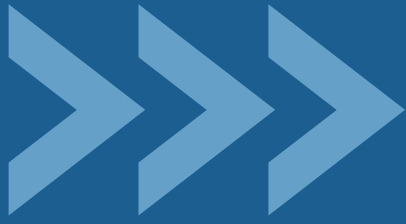
Click on the heart above to see our full list of donors.



Thank you to Arnie Kreek (2012 Alumni and 2018 Citizenship Award recipient) for his generous contribution! Leadership Northwest Missouri depends on the commitment of dedicated alumni, businesses, and organizations.

Leadership Northwest Missouri greatly appreciates donations of any size from individuals and organizations to help further its mission to build, strengthen and inspire leaders. Visit www.leadershipnorthwestmissouri.org to make a tax deductible donation.

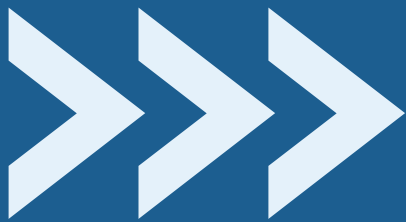
2025 Sponsorship Opportunities



Platinum Level
\$1,500 and up

Platinum Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and share business information
- VIP seating at the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony (complimentary)
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders
- Business feature post on Facebook page
- Featured in 2024 class media release
- Banner displayed at events



Gold Level
\$1,000 - \$1,499

Gold Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and share business information
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony (complimentary)
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders
- Business feature post on Facebook page



Silver Level
\$500 - \$999

Silver Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and introduce yourself and your organization
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders



Bronze Level
\$100 - \$499

Bronze Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony

SPONSOR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VITAL TO OUR MISSION.