

Leadership Development Academy *“Growing New Leaders”*



In 2005 Brookfield launched a comprehensive plan for community development using the frameworks of Hometown Competitiveness...one of the “pillars” in that plan being Leadership. The goal of the Leadership Task Force, which “oversees” the Academy, is an ongoing one—“to identify, recruit, train and encourage new leaders by providing them with the necessary leadership skills to improve and sustain our community”.

Working steadfastly toward this objective, the Task Force has assessed and surveyed leadership strengths and weaknesses using a leadership capacity questionnaire and personal interviews with established leaders. The goal was always to create a “uniquely Linn County” leadership program. We are proud to report that, as of March 2021, over 250 people have gone through the program and received their Certificate of Completion from the Leadership Academy.

Among the participants in the Leadership Academy you will find high school youth, young adults, teachers and administrators, city officials, businesspeople, homemakers, concerned citizens and seniors. Ages of participants range from 16 to 75—so everyone is welcome! Topics span from the personal (Know Brookfield, Know Others, Know Yourself) to the professional (Managing Conflict and Change, Visioning for the Future). From these classes of dedicated individuals, several new boards and/or organizations have been served. All participants leave having a deeper appreciation and knowledge of their hometown and area. At the ceremony each March, participants are asked to invite a potential Leadership Program candidate. At the end of the dinner, after having listened to each “graduate” reflect on what he/she has learned during the six months of training, many of those potential candidates sign up for the next Academy (which begins in September), thus fulfilling the goal of “creating a continuous crop of leaders”.

Motivational speaker and former college professor, Dr. Tim Crowley—who presents three of the ten sessions—gently reminds the leadership development students of their inter-connectedness and the fact they could only come to fully comprehend themselves by understanding those around them. “We can best fulfill our obsession with wanting to be understood by understanding others, by listening rather than waiting to talk,” explains the professor and therapist.



While visioning the way they would like their community to look is indeed an invaluable task for the Leadership students, they also learn the most important visioning they can do involves gaining insight into their own motives and behavior. That insight is gained in one-on-one interactions... and from those interactions and conversations arise a sense of community and its needs.

For more information about the Leadership Development Academy, please contact the Brookfield Area Growth Partnership office at (660) 258 7278.