



## ***Strong Leaders Build Strong Communities*** ***Strong Communities Increase the Quality of Life for All***

**Purpose:** Leadership Union County (LUC), a Partnership between UNITE Foundation and the Union County Development Association, is a nine month biennial program developed to identify, inform, and motivate existing and emerging leaders who are committed to shaping the future of Union County and its local communities.

### **The program is designed to:**

- Provide opportunities for members to increase their community awareness to better understand how multiple sectors of our community and region work together
- Bring members in personal contact with local, regional, state, civic, business, and/or political leaders
- Promote professional and personal growth, leadership skills, teamwork and project development
- Equip members to respond to current and future community challenges in a positive manner
- Inspire members to focus their talents on a way to better serve our community, region and state

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**“Meet and Greet Social”:** This kickoff event will be held at the Union County Heritage Museum, Thursday, September 5, 2024, from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. Attire is business casual. New class members will sign in, receive name tag, meet LUC Alumni, socialize, and take a class picture. This will be a fun event to meet fellow 2024-2025 class members.

**Monthly Sessions:** Beginning after the *Opening Retreat*, monthly learning sessions are held each third Wednesday, from 8am – 5pm, September to May with the Graduation Luncheon scheduled for May 21, 2025. During each session, local governmental, business, organizational and/or community leaders will share their knowledge through discussions and activities that focus on needs and opportunities in our area. Focus topics include county history *‘then and now’*, partnerships, community development, local government and criminal justice, economic and industrial development, healthcare, community visioning and strategic planning, education, community service and boardmanship. A study of Stephen Covey’s *“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”* provides introspection and development of leadership potential. *“Go-See-Hear”* tours of local industries, businesses, historic sites, and /or facilities focused on government, education, entertainment, healthcare, and social services provide informative experiences.

**Community Service Project:** The Community Service Project is an integral part of Leadership Union County. Members will work with fellow classmates to implement a community enhancing project. This project provides class members the opportunity to turn concepts into workable projects and solutions. Projects will be completed outside of the Monthly Sessions. Teams may initiate their own project or develop and implement strategies of one suggested by the Leadership Steering Committee.

**Expectation** Members are expected to attend and actively participate in each monthly session. Attendance at the ‘Meet & Greet’ Social, Opening Retreat and the Graduation Luncheon are required. Excessive absences may result in removal from the program. Each member is allowed two excused absences with prior approval.

**Application and Selection:** Applicants must be 25 years of age or older and reside, work, or own a business in Union County. Applicants may self-nominate or be nominated by an organization, employer or individual. The class is limited to 20 members. Selection criteria include diverse vocational disciplines, geographical distribution, community involvement, leadership capabilities and potential. A commitment from the employer to allow time for the applicant to participate is required. No more than 2 employees per company or organization may participate in the same class. If you need assistance, please call Betsey Hamilton, LUC Program Coordinator - 662-538-3424.

**Tuition:** Tuition for the Leadership Union County program is \$250 per participant. A **non-refundable** tuition helps cover costs for session programs, instructional materials, meals, and graduation recognition. Fee is due upon acceptance and prior to *Opening “Meet and Greet” Social*. A limited number of scholarships covering half of the tuition are available.

**Application and Nomination forms must be received at UCDA by 5:00 pm, Friday, July 12, 2024**  
**Applicants will be notified of acceptance into the program before August 1, 2024**



## **Class of 2024-2025 ~ Program Schedule**

### ***Engaging Local Leaders***

**September 5, 2024**

Thursday, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m

**Opening “Meet & Greet” Social**

Union County Heritage Museum

**September 18, 2024**

Wednesday, 8 am – 5 pm

**Leadership Charge**

Opening Retreat - TBA

**October 16, 2024**

Wednesday, 8 am – 5 pm

**Community Development/Civic Improvement**

Magnolia Civic Center

**November 20, 2024**

Wednesday, 8 am – 5 pm

**Community Service/Non-Profits**

**Presentation Skills:** Union County Museum

**December 18, 2024**

Wednesday, 8 am – 5 pm

**Local Government/Criminal Justice**

Magnolia Civic Center

**January 15, 2025**

Wednesday, 8 am – 5 pm

**Economic & Industrial Development**

Magnolia Civic Center

**February 19, 2025**

Wednesday 8 am – 5 pm

**Healthcare/Wellness**

Magnolia Civic Center/Baptist Hospital

**March 19, 2025**

Wednesday, 8 am – 5 pm

**Community Visioning/Strategic Planning**

Union County Museum

**April 16, 2025**

Wednesday, 8 am – 5 pm

**Education**

Magnolia Civic Center/NASD Office

**May 21, 2025**

Wednesday 11:30 am – 1 pm

**Graduation Luncheon, Recognition**

Union County Heritage Museum

**Participants are expected to attend the Opening “Meet and Greet” Social,  
Opening Retreat and Graduation Luncheon.**

**Attendance at ALL monthly sessions is REQUIRED.**

**Two excused absences from monthly meetings is allowed for an Emergency, Family or Business Matter  
Those who fail to attend without pre-approval may be asked to withdraw with no refund of tuition.**