



# Huntsville Leadership Institute 2024-25

*Serving Huntsville & Walker County*

## Leadership makes things happen!

The Huntsville Leadership Institute was established by the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce to foster the development of community leaders from all segments of the Huntsville/Walker County area, specifically to:

- Promote leadership as a public responsibility
- Identify and develop new and emerging leader candidates for community service and improved business practices
- Encourage communication between current and future leaders
- Fill key community leadership positions with graduates
- Develop a large, active group of graduates

## HLI focuses on the 3 following areas:

- Leadership
- Community Awareness
- Networking and Relationships

## Leadership is always needed

Businesses...non-profit organizations...boards...churches...governments..., etc. The business of a leader is to turn weakness into strength, obstacles into stepping stones, and disaster into triumph.

## Who may apply?

Anyone who has an interest in helping to develop our community to its greatest potential and enhancing the quality of life in Walker County is invited. There are no minimum educational requirements to apply. You do not have to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce, nor employed; however you must live or work in Walker County.

## What's to be gained?

The Huntsville Leadership Institute will inform you about your community and its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. In HLI you'll find individual growth and fulfillment as you become prepared to meet the challenges and dynamic changes of the future, whether in your own life or the life of the community.

*"HLI was a life changing experience for me. The visits around town afforded the opportunities for deeper understanding of our community and what it takes to make Huntsville-Walker County truly work. The program not only helped me in my own business, but also in growing my confidence that we, as a community, can reach towards new goals for our future!" -Lisa Branch, HLI Class #31*

## The Experience

- Begins with a two-day overnight resort retreat
- Includes ten regular monthly day-long (7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) sessions including, but not limited to: Personality Styles, Communication Skills, Local Economy, Government, Natural Resources, Political Process, Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Local Education Systems, Leadership Skills, Community Demographics and History, ROPES Outdoor Adventure Course
- Engages the class in simulations, group exercises, book study, discussions and presentations
- Provides an opportunity to visit places and meet people you might not otherwise
- Incorporates tours that may include: local industry, TDCJ, SHSU, etc.
- Gets the class involved "hands on" in a community project. (*some fundraising or extra cost may be required*)
- Introduces you to beneficial and rewarding relationships with others
- PLEASE NOTE that several sessions do require a great deal of walking – if you have physical limitations please contact the chamber for clarification

## What else can I expect?

- Professional & personal development
- Expanded interest in community service
- Introductions to key leaders
- A new look at yourself
- Opportunities you never knew existed!

## Institute Faculty

The faculty of the Institute are decision makers, both front-line and behind the scenes. We utilize local and state elected officials, professionals and other key community leaders. Our instructors provide insight into the challenges facing future leaders and give a perspective of the challenges our community has already overcome and/or is facing today.

***The quality of our leadership will determine the future of our community. We can each decide to be part of the problems...or part of the solutions.***

## Participants

The annual class will be no less than 15 people and no more than 25 selected as representatives of a broad cross-section of the community. Application does not guarantee selection. Since the initial class in 1982, more than 700 citizens have participated in the program. Graduates are from diverse backgrounds, possess unique skills and have a history of making things happen. You are invited to apply for HLI, or to nominate someone you feel is a good candidate.

***"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." - John F. Kennedy***

## Requirements

### Attendance

Every participant in Huntsville Leadership Institute is expected to attend all sessions. The overnight retreat is mandatory and regular attendance at sessions is enforced. The program is designed so that each subject adds to a well-rounded foundation for any future leadership roles.

### Tuition

The \$900.00 tuition covers the nine-month (September-May) program; the overnight retreat, all class sessions and materials, meals, field trips, the graduation ceremony, chamber HLI polo to wear at all sessions and all other incidentals.

Payment options are available; no money is due until the class is announced in late August. Tuition may be paid by an individual, organization or business; by check or credit card. Scholarship assistance may be available.

### Class Project

The class project is one way the current HLI class can serve our community. In the process we hope it will provide each participant with a sense of satisfaction, teamwork and high impact networking. Personal leadership styles will arise as the project takes place. **Participation in the project is a graduation requirement.**

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*"I believe the Huntsville Leadership Institute is one of the most valuable programs in our community. Whether you have lived in Huntsville for many years or only a short time, it's the way to become informed about all the aspects, opportunities, and all that makes Huntsville-Walker County great! I highly recommend HLI for anyone who wants to know all about our community and who wants to get involved."*

**-Mac Woodward, former Mayor of Huntsville, HLI Class #1**

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*Great experience! I accomplished my goals and learned at least one new thing about our community each day!"*

**-Frankie McCaffety, Lifetime resident, HLI Class #33**

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*"I have been very impressed with the broad range of people in the community that HLI touches as well as with the depth, attention to details, which HLI covers throughout the nine month course." - Dr. David Prier*

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*"HLI helped build our foundation of understanding and broadened our perspective, but it also took us down the path of self-discovery."*

**- Kirstie Legerski, HLI**

**Class #34**

**2017-2018 HLI Chair**

## 2024-25 HLI Committee

The Institute is governed by a Board of Directors  
Brian Goldgar.....Chair  
..... Huntsville Memorial Hospital  
Melissa Barham..... Vice Chair  
..... AdVantage Specialties, Inc  
Meredith Conrey .....Past Chair  
..... Sam Houston State University  
Madilene Loosier ..... Board Liaison  
.....Madilene's Piano Tuning & Repair  
Marshall Altom ..... Altom Digital/Postcards  
Charlotte Baker Tomorrow's Promise Montessori  
Kaye Boehning Tomorrow's Promise Montessori  
Tammy Farkas..... SAAFE House  
Rachel McDonald..... Walker County Federal CU  
Emily O'Rear ... Tom Foolery's Pizza and Games  
Rachel Parker ..... Huntsville EMS  
Tracy Rikard..... City of Huntsville  
Elizabeth Speer..... First Presbyterian Church  
Ray Hernandez..... Chamber President  
Kelli Ramey ..... HLI Coordinator

### 2024-25 Schedule

- **August 1-Applications Due**
- September 5 - Orientation; 5:15 p.m.- **Mandatory**
- September 16 & 17 Retreat  
Overnight – 2 FULL DAY/OVERNIGHT  
Retreat is **MANDATORY**
- October 15
- November 12
- December 17
- January 21
- February 18
- March 18
- April 15
- May 20
- Graduation – June 5

**To request an application or for more information about HLI call 936-295-8113, stop by the chamber at 1327 H<sup>th</sup> Street or email [chamber@huntsvillewalkerchamber.com](mailto:chamber@huntsvillewalkerchamber.com) with HLI in the subject line**

**Please review all requirements for the program included in the application.**

*"I think the HLI program is fabulous for networking; but, also very beneficial for developing leaders to run for public office or just get more involved with the community. It helps people find a good fit for their area of interest in serving the community." -Patsy Collins, HLI Class #35*

***Leadership is not only an honor...but a responsibility.***