Designed for young professionals, the Emerging Leaders program offers the opportunity to strengthen your personal, professional and civic leadership skills, gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of the St. Louis region and build connections with a diverse network of peers.

Since its launch in 2012, the program has trained more than 400 St. Louis area young professionals. Emerging Leaders is a great springboard to applying for other FOCUS leadership programs and pursuing leadership positions in your career and the community.

Who Should Apply
If you’re a young professional (ages 22-35) who wants to gain a better understanding of yourself as a leader, of the St. Louis region, and how you can get involved to make our community stronger, you may be a great fit for Emerging Leaders.

Like all FOCUS programs, Emerging Leaders welcomes applicants from all backgrounds and sectors. Classes are selected to represent the diversity of the St. Louis region.

Graduates leave the program with an increased sense of engagement in the region, as well as the tools to take an active role as the next generation of St. Louis civic and professional leaders. You’ll also become part of the network of more than 10,000 FOCUS program alumni.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Curriculum
While content is continually updated to meet the needs of each class, the curriculum typically covers the following topics:

- Understanding Self and Leadership
- Civic-minded Leadership
- Values-based Leadership
- Finding Your WHY as a Leader
- Understanding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion as a Leader

Along the way, you’ll have the opportunity to explore your leadership style, examine regional issues from different perspectives, strengthen your communication skills, and build lasting connections with other leaders.

Sessions include a mix of speakers, interviews with regional leaders, small-group discussion, interactive exercises and reflection activities.

Commitment
The three-month program is offered each spring and fall and includes:

- A two-day opening retreat
- Two evening sessions on Mondays
- Two full-day sessions on Thursdays
- Civic Action Project (small-group learning experience)
- FOCUS Now graduation/networking event

“Emerging Leaders enabled me to expand my knowledge and strengthen my confidence as a young professional trying to affect change in the St. Louis region.”

Becca Weaver
Application Process
Applications for the Emerging Leaders program can be found online at www.focus-stl.org.

The application deadline for our Fall 2020 class is Friday, July 10, 2020. Participants will be notified of their selection by July 31, 2020.

Program Cost
The tuition for the Emerging Leaders program is $895 and includes a complimentary FOCUS St. Louis membership during your time in the program.

Tuition is often covered in part or full by the participant’s employer. Partial scholarship assistance is available to those with demonstrated financial need.

Host a Civic Action Project
Civic Action Projects are community-based initiatives of importance that need focused attention by a multidisciplinary cross-sector team of leaders. Successful projects are well defined, with a specific request for engagement along with a targeted outcome. Participants in each of our fall/spring cohorts conduct these peer-led projects with the intent of contributing to the community and incorporating service-learning into the program curricula. If your organization is interested in hosting a Civic Action Project, visit www.focus-stl.org/EmergingLeaders to learn more.

About FOCUS St. Louis
FOCUS is the region’s premier leadership development organization. FOCUS prepares a diverse base of leaders to work cooperatively for a thriving St. Louis region through our experience-based leadership training, civic issue education and public engagement initiatives.

FOCUS offers a continuum of programs to engage leaders at every stage of their journey, from high school students to senior executives. More than 10,000 individuals have completed our programs, and FOCUS alumni and members are leaders who make a difference.

For More Information
Visit www.focus-stl.org or contact Program Director Shalia Ford at (314) 657-4021 or shaliaf@focus-stl.org.