



Founded in 1976, Leadership St. Louis is one of the most highly-respected leadership development programs in the nation. The program was built on the belief that community, just as any business or organization, requires strong leadership to grow and improve. Graduates of the program include CEOs and senior level executives, entrepreneurs, elected officials, educators, attorneys, nonprofit directors and public servants. The common ground under this wide array of participants is a deep and active commitment to community improvement and making our region stronger.

Who Should Apply

If you are an experienced leader who wants to gain a deeper understanding of the St. Louis region, explore collaborative civic leadership and build connections across sectors, you may be a great fit for Leadership St. Louis.

Like all of our leadership programs, Leadership St. Louis welcomes applicants from all backgrounds, industries and sectors.

Many graduates describe the experience as “transformational,” arming you with the tools, resources and connections to lead more effectively in your personal, professional and civic life. Upon graduation, you’ll also become part of the network of more than 10,000 FOCUS program alumni.

“To me, the most valuable aspect is exposure - to topics, programs, organizations and people who are impacting our region every single day.”

Tony Zagora

WHAT TO EXPECT

Curriculum

The LSL experience is immersive, bringing you out in community to learn firsthand about the challenges and opportunities facing our region. On any given program day, you may be:

- Talking with police, prosecutors, victims and past offenders about the justice system
- Connecting with nonprofit agencies to understand the social services safety net
- Discussing leadership challenges with the CEOs of the region’s largest employers
- Talking with area schools leaders to explore best practices and educational gaps
- Weighing state and local priorities with officials in Jefferson City

The Leadership St. Louis program is designed to challenge your thinking, expose you to new ideas and perspectives and promote discussion, reflection and action. You’ll also benefit from unparalleled access to community leaders and forge lasting connections with your cohort.

Commitment

Leadership St. Louis is a nine-month program, with one or two full-day sessions each month from September to May. It also includes an opening and closing overnight retreat. Applicants must have the ability to attend all sessions (barring emergencies) to be eligible for participation in Leadership St. Louis.

“Leadership St. Louis was a life-changing experience, touching both my mind and my heart, and opening my eyes to the assets and opportunities for the region.” - Karen Ganschaw



Application Process

Applications for the Leadership St. Louis program can be found online at www.focus-stl.org. Two recommendations are required; a link to this form is available online and will be sent upon submission of your application.

Once all materials are reviewed, applicants will be asked to participate in two personal interviews with Leadership program graduates on Saturday, April 23.

The application deadline for our 2022-23 cohort is Friday, March 18, 2022.

You may also nominate an employee or colleague for the program online, and we will follow up to provide them with the application materials.

Program Cost

The tuition for the Leadership St. Louis program is \$5,000, which includes a complimentary FOCUS 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.

About FOCUS St. Louis

FOCUS St. Louis 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 leadership 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.

2022-23 PROGRAM DATES

March 18, 2022	Application Deadline
April 23, 2022	Interview Day
June 2, 2022	Orientation
Sept. 9 & 10, 2022	Opening Retreat
Oct. 7, 2022	Seminar
Nov. 4 & 5, 2022	Seminars
Dec. 2, 2022	Seminar
Jan. 13, 2023	Seminar
Feb. 3, 2023	Seminar
Feb. 28 & March 1, 2023	Seminars
March 31, 2023	Seminar
May 5 & 6, 2023	Closing Retreat
May 2023	FOCUS Now Graduation



For More Information

Visit www.focus-stl.org or contact Leadership St. Louis Director Dr. Yemi Akande-Bartsch at yemia@focus-stl.org or (314) 657-4019.