



The mission of The Leadership Center is to enlighten, inspire and connect a diverse continuum of next-level leaders to advance a robust talent pipeline to support existing businesses, future economic development and community organizations.

Under the direction of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, the vision for the Center is to provide a legacy of leadership for the community and motivate leaders for the future.

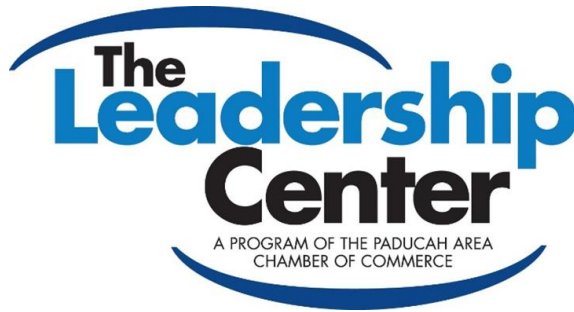
“Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe, and enthusiastically act upon...must inevitably come to pass.”

Paul J. Meyer, Founder, Success Motivation Institute

Proud member of:



Envisioning a Legacy of Leadership



Why Now?

According to recent research published by Dr. Nick Brake from Western Kentucky University, his study confirms the need for Paducah to invest in future leaders. *“The study analyzed data from 50 small cities in middle America, one of which was Paducah, examining the role of leadership and community development in places that have thrived compared to those that have experienced distress. The communities that are thriving have implemented a combination of collaborative, multigenerational, and inclusive civic leadership, focused on the development of youth and entrepreneurs. They leverage charitable resources, and use their place-identity to create vibrant downtowns and public spaces.”*

His study specifically indicated that *“compared to the 50 small cities studied, Paducah ranked in the lowest quarter on measures of multigenerational and inclusive community leadership. These results signal a need to better engage and develop the young generation to provide more diversity for the kind of civic leadership needed for the future.”*

It’s time to take the necessary steps forward. To the leadership of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, this study helped us to affirm this is a positive step.

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to be launching “The Leadership Center,” as a new brand for the programs of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce focused on leadership. This will serve the current Chamber leadership programs and be the home for new programs to be developed.

The Leadership Center will build the leaders our community needs for the 21st Century and beyond. After all, leaders aren’t simply born. They are mentored, challenged and supported.

We are motivated to create the Center as a showcase on what is possible and to demonstrate to those who compare our community to others, the Paducah area truly believes in vision and success comes from thoughtful preparedness.

We believe having diverse and skilled leaders is a ***competitive advantage*** for our community. Those who participate and study with the Chamber's Leadership programs will go on to be leaders with businesses, non-profit organizations, education, local boards, government, churches and more.

The Center will help emerging and experienced leaders enhance and develop the skills to lead into the future with confidence and vision and inspire future generations. The Chamber believes this is our way to differentiate who we are as a community.

The Paducah Chamber is well known for our successful advocacy efforts on behalf of the community and our local businesses. Programs are also an important part of our scope of work. One of these includes our signature program, Leadership Paducah, now in its 35th year. Just as the Leadership Paducah program has grown and evolved over time, so will the programs of The Leadership Center.

This is an area in which we feel we can make a true difference in achieving community success and an investment we must make for the future of our community.

The Paducah Chamber is a 5 Star Accredited Chamber by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and two time recipient of the prestigious Chamber of the Year Award from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. We are also active with the Association of Leadership Programs.

We believe it is our responsibility, we are the organization to fill this need, and we are confident that we can fill a niche in the community not already being served.

A Message from the Chamber President:



With The Leadership Center we are looking to create leaders for a lifetime. In support of developing great leaders, we will provide alums of our programs with additional opportunities to continue their growth through involvement in our programs as participants and mentors.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on providing impactful leadership development to help leaders of all stages of life to move our community forward and address the needs of our community and region.

We invite you to join with us through your support with funding, participation and leadership. Any investment you make with us to develop and equip leaders serves the greater good. We are in this together for the future of our community.

**Sandra Wilson, IOM - President, Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce
Leadership Paducah Class #3 - Chamber Board Chair 1996**

Implementation:

Phase 1 – What’s Next - with the current Chamber staffing:

- Seek out an Executive-in-Residence type program to study the current programs, resources available from other sources and identify the gaps to be filled that aren’t currently offered.
- Add signage at the Commerce Center to officially launch The Leadership Center, programs and recognize supporters.
- Enhance the current programs through speakers who may require a stipend. This will allow us to expand our current programming to include new topics that need to be covered by more experienced leaders in specific areas such as DE&I.
- Begin the Educators Externship and Regional Leadership Programs.
- Reignite the Leadership Paducah Alumni programs and connect graduates to each other, the Chamber and the community.
- Seek out a partnering organization, such as the Leadership Louisville Center, to explore a potential retainer for assisting us with programming.
- Continue and expand, when possible, scholarship programs.
- Some contract labor could be utilized to assist.

Phase 2 – What’s Next - with a permanent employee dedicated at least three-fourths to the Center:

- Be a fully integrated program to develop and identify subject matter experts available for assistance.
- Expand the Center’s outreach as the community’s “go to” for these types of programs.
- Expand and enhance all of the current programs. More events will be able to take place that will keep participants and alums more engaged and involved.
- Connect programs to local employers who might not otherwise have made the commitment (due to time off work or cost of travel) for their employees to attend these types of programs. These could include management, DE&I, soft skills, etc.
- Host more training programs for entrepreneurs, small business owners and their employees.
- Be ready to respond to the emerging needs of the community.
- Better tracking of participants and their success.

Board of Directors:

A Board of Directors will be established for The Leadership Center to serve in an advisory capacity. The LC Board will be established by the Chamber Board of Directors and include the current Chair of the Chamber Board, Chair-elect, and Vice Chair of Education and Workforce. At least seven additional members will be recruited from the community to represent a variety of the areas to be addressed by the programs. Additional ex-officio members may be included to represent other needs to be filled. A Chair will be elected of this Board and asked to represent the LC with the full Chamber Board.

Potential New Programs:

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Women’s Leadership; Non-Profit; Crisis Leadership Development; skilled training on various topics; plus more.

“Leadership is dealing with tomorrow, envisioning the future and dealing with change.”

John A. Williams Sr., Founder of CSI

Pillars:

- **Inclusive** – All are welcome, not just Chamber members.
- **Collaborative** – The Leadership Center Board, staff, facilitators and participants will work together for the benefit of our community.
- **Leadership** – Individuals will benefit from leadership training, skill and relationship building and networking opportunities.
- **Inspiring** – As individuals have more confidence in their abilities, this will inspire them to be more involved and assume more responsibility.
- **Develop** – This continuum of more confident and experienced individuals will be an asset and create a competitive advantage for this area.
- **Mentors** – Mentorships would be offered in all areas of our programming.

Programming:

Under the brand of The Leadership Center and housed within the Paducah Chamber will be the Chamber's signature programs including Leadership Paducah, Youth LEAD, Leadership Paducah Alumni Association, Paducah Young Professionals and the Intern Initiative. The Chamber plans to establish new programs and in particular one to educate teachers about high-demand local careers called Educator Externships and be the sponsoring organization for a regional leadership program for the West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance.

Cooperative:

The Leadership Center will be intentional to not duplicate what others are already doing but rather build upon opportunities for emerging and existing leaders as a compliment to other existing programs and be a home for new programs and resources. The Chamber will work closely with West Kentucky Community and Technical College and Murray State University to enhance and expand offerings in the community.

Outcomes:

Measurements and outcomes for all programs will be monitored as applicable.

Investors:

Businesses and individuals will be invited to become investors in The Leadership Center to allow the Center to provide more impactful leadership development to those in all stages of their career to move our community forward.

As a 501c3, Foundation grants will be sought for the Center. Sponsorships for individual programs will continue to be recruited to cover basic costs.

Funds for The Leadership Center will be used to grow and enhance the center's programs and for the establishment of new programs.

“A community that invests in its leadership is a healthier, wealthier and wiser community.”

University of Kentucky President Dr. Eli Capilouto
stated at a Paducah Chamber breakfast



Leadership
PADUCAH

PYP paducah
young professionals
engaging young leaders of the future


LEADERSHIP PADUCAH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION


Leadership • Education • Development
YOUTH LEAD

 Paducah Chamber
Educator
EXTERNSHIPS

Paducah Chamber
Intern Initiative


 **West Kentucky**
Regional Chamber Alliance
Regional Leadership Program

New Programs

NEW PROGRAMS IN THE WORKS!

Paducah Chamber **Educator** EXTERNSHIPS

The Paducah Chamber is creating a new formal program to assist educators with connecting classroom content with students' future career interests.

Teachers, counselors and administrators will spend time at businesses learning about the jobs that are available right here in Paducah and McCracken County. During the externship, educators will observe and interact with employees and gain hands-on experience that will help them better inform students about the academic and employability skills needed to be successful in that industry.

Participating businesses will benefit from the externships, too. Through the teachers, they are reaching hundreds of students and contributing to the preparation of their future workforce as the teachers pass along their acquired knowledge in their classrooms and counselors guide students to the career pathway best suited for them.

Why should a business participate?

- To inform educators about expectations of employees in various positions.
- To be involved in career pathways.
- To be a part of the "Grow Our Own" workforce.

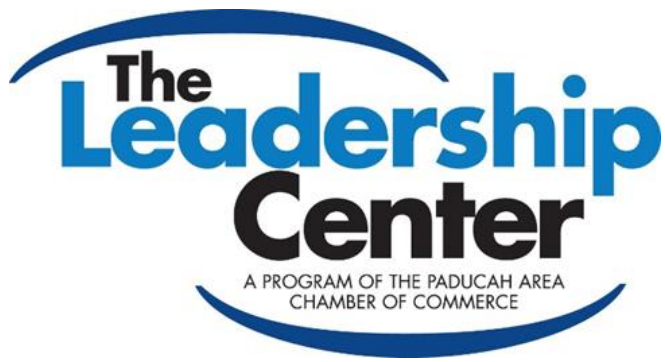
The industries to be considered for 2022 are river industry, health care and IT.



The Paducah Chamber serves as the administrator for the West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance, an alliance of Chambers of Commerce in 14 counties in Western Kentucky. The purpose of the WKRCA is to provide a unified voice for local businesses in the region and to serve as a catalyst for regional leadership and action, bringing together resources for legislative, educational, infrastructure, and economic development.

Member counties are Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, McCracken, Marshall, and Trigg. Several of these do not have a leadership program in their county. Many other parts of the state have their own regional leadership programs, yet Western Kentucky does not. The WKRCA Regional Leadership Program would highlight what Western Kentucky has to offer and educate potential regional leaders.

Most of the member counties are seeing a population decline reported in the 2020 Census. The loss of population impacts all of Western Kentucky and also results in the loss of representation in the Kentucky House and/or Senate and impacts the Congressional District geographical area. This program would grow leaders who intend to work and live in Western Kentucky and inspire potential growth for future generations in Western Kentucky.



The Paducah area's diverse and skilled leaders aren't just a resource. They are our *competitive* advantage.

We invite you to join an elite group by becoming a founding supporter of The Leadership Center.



John A. Williams, Sr.

Additional support provided by:



For more information about support of the Center, contact Sandra Wilson, President, Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, 270-443-1746, office, 270-559-0389, cell, or swilson@paducahchamber.org.

