



2026-27 Class Participation Application

Completion of this application is required to be considered for class participation. All information is confidential. Class size is limited. Participants are selected based on leadership potential and demonstrated community interest. Candidates who are not selected are encouraged to apply again for future classes. Email application to: htometich@leadottumwa.org or mail to 111 East Main Street.

Deadline: June 30, 2026

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Gender: _____ D.O.B: _____ Years living/working in Wapello County: _____

Home address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Cell phone: () _____ Personal email: _____

Current Employer: _____

Title: _____

Work address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Work phone: () _____ Work email: _____

Personal References

Name	Company	Phone	Email
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

Community Leadership

(Describe present or past volunteer community leadership positions you have held)

Organization	Date(s) Involved	Position/Responsibility
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Work Experience

(Begin with most recent)

Employer	City/State	From/To	Position/Responsibility
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Education

(Begin with most recent)

School	City/State	From/To	Degree
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Other Activities and Accomplishments *(List any other honors, offices held, activities, etc.)*

Essay Questions

*(In answering the following questions, limit **total attachments** to two, single-spaced typed pages)*

1. What do you hope to gain from the Leadership Academy experience? How do you expect to utilize this experience? What initiatives/organizations might you want to invest time in?
2. What have you found to be your most challenging community involvement? And why?
3. What do you feel are the two most pressing problems facing Ottumwa (and Wapello County) today?
4. Leadership styles vary in different situations. In your opinion, what common traits do all leaders exhibit?
5. Assess your current leadership skills. What are your strengths? What areas you would like to improve? Please provide personal examples of each.

Application and Participation Agreement:

I understand that successful completion of this program requires mandatory attendance at the opening retreat (**September 18 & 19, 2026**), closing retreat & graduation (**June 3, 2027**), and 7 of the 8 monthly sessions in between, plus participation in and completion of the required class and civic projects.

I also understand that a tuition fee of \$1100 will be charged to accepted applicants. My signature warrants that all information contained in this application is true and correct. If my application is selected, I will conduct myself in a manner befitting a community leader. I will devote the time and tuition resources required to fully participate in the Ottumwa Leadership Academy.

In the event that applicant commits a criminal act, or is charged with a criminal act; is guilty of gross negligence or is incompetent in the performance of their job related duties; is discharged from their employment; or engages in conduct which, in the sole opinion of the Ottumwa Leadership Academy brings or exposes the applicant to public disrepute, contempt or ridicule, or otherwise reflects unfavorably on the Leadership Academy, the applicant will be terminated from the program upon the majority vote of the Advisory Board, without a refund of the application fee. Additionally, if the participant pays for tuition personally and is discharged from the program for failing to meet program requirements (i.e. attendance), no refund will be awarded.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Acknowledgement by Employer

The undersigned, as the Employer of the applicant acknowledges:

1. That it consents to applicant's participation in the Leadership Academy, in the event applicant is accepted into the program.
2. That as the employer, it will cooperate with the applicant and the Leadership Academy during the term of the program, including accommodation, where possible, of applicant's work schedule to permit attendance and participation in the monthly sessions and class projects as well as mandatory attendance at the Opening Retreat on September 18 & 19, 2026, final session and graduation on June 3, 2027.
3. That any fees paid by employer for applicant's participation are non-transferable and non-refundable in the event that applicant changes jobs, is discharged from employment, does not complete the program, or is discharged from the program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Available Scholarships

Please indicate whether your participation is reliant upon receiving this scholarship.

Note: This will not determine the recipient of the scholarship, rather it will help the selection committee better analyze the applicant pool.

Yes, I need a scholarship_____ **No**, I do not need a scholarship_____

The Andy Hansen Legacy Scholarship



Andy Hansen was Plant Manager at John Deere Ottumwa Works from 2010-2013. While in Ottumwa, Andy provided leadership and encouraged others to step into leadership roles. He demonstrated his leadership through volunteerism and being a board member to several community organizations including the Legacy Foundation. The Legacy Foundation wanted to honor Andy's dedication to the betterment of the Ottumwa community by creating the Andy Hansen Legacy Scholarship. This scholarship is for one year's tuition for a participant from a non-profit organization or small business that might not otherwise be able to send someone.

The Dr. Marlene Sprouse Legacy Scholarship



Dr. Marlene Sprouse was the president of Indian Hills Community College from 2013-2020 and a life-long advocate for developing leaders in Southeast Iowa. She served on the Board of Directors for the Legacy Foundation from 2015-2020, and served as the Board Chair in 2020. The Legacy Foundation wanted to honor Marlene's dedication to developing leaders for Southeast Iowa by creating the Marlene Sprouse Legacy Scholarship. This scholarship is for one year's tuition for a participant from a non-profit organization or small business that might not otherwise be able to send someone.

The Alumni Association Scholarship

The Alumni Association Committee saw the need for an additional scholarship and set up an annual fund to address the issue. Selection for this scholarship is based on answers to the essay questions by a committee of alumni.