

LEADERSHIP JOPLIN

TESTIMONIES

Welcome Leadership Joplin Class

You are about to embark on an incredible journey. A journey that will provide you the opportunity to meet and listen to some of the top business and community leaders of our area. You will get to see inside many businesses and learn more about the region in which we live. And most importantly you will be given the opportunity to further develop your leadership skills and to learn what motivates those around you.

Leadership Joplin continues to surprise me year after year. The caliber of people in each class, their love of Joplin, their drive to continuously improve our community and their want for personal/leadership development makes me proud to be a part of the Joplin community. Since 2012, the year that I went through the program (and, arguably one of the best years!) I have met many wonderful individuals, built strong business relationships and developed great friendships.

You will laugh, you will cry (if you are a blue), but most of all you will have fun.

Get ready Class of 2017, your journey is about to begin!

Donnie Greenlee

Farmers Insurance

Leadership Joplin Class of 2012

2017 Leadership Joplin Steering Committee Chair

Leadership Joplin is more than just another leadership development program. It's, in my opinion, THE BEST program the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce offers to its members. There is no other more comprehensive course out there for aspiring business leaders. It will teach you about yourself, your coworkers, your community and your place in this interconnected world of business throughout Joplin and the Four States. You'll develop long-lasting friendship, create a network of need-to-know people from the region, and discover new avenues in which you can be involved in the community. Do yourself a favor and sign up for the next Leadership Joplin course. You won't be disappointed.

Chris Roberts, Director of Communications

Christ In Youth

Leadership Joplin Class of 2012

Leadership Joplin Steering Committee

Having chaired Leadership Joplin in its formative years, it is terrific to be a part of this professional and successful leadership Chamber program today. For the new manager or business owner it is a career trifecta: learn about the community, develop a collegial network and build leadership skills when I look at the Freeman employees who participated in the past, all developed into excellent leaders. That is to say that participation in LJ is a win-win for you and your employee. You will have a person more knowledgeable, community connected and on an upward career path. LJ will prove to be dollars well spent. A new class will be forming in the fall. I highly recommend that you and/or your employee(s) participate in the 2017 LJ class

Gary Duncan, Pres Emeritus

Freeman Health System

Leadership Joplin Class of 1983

Leadership Joplin Steering Committee

Greetings! I am honored to be on the Leadership Joplin Steering Committee. I am so excited to share with you some of the great things Joplin has to offer. The year will be full of networking, honing your leadership skills and fun! Each session will provide you with insight into our great community and yourself as a leader. I am looking forward to working with the Leadership Joplin Class of 2017!

Kimberly Gipson, System Reliability Engineering Tech

Empire District Electric Company

Leadership Joplin Class of 2010

Leadership Joplin Steering Committee

If I could do Leadership Joplin every year, I would. Not only did I get to know scores of amazing people through the program, I also got to know myself better through the Motive Matters training. People I consider irreplaceable friends were unknown to me before I participated in the LJ course. I made several business connections that have saved us time and money. The program broadened my understanding and appreciation for the area we live and work in a real and tangible way. I now find it amazing to have lived here for so many years and not known I was missing out on so much. Any person who is serious about having a career in or around Joplin needs to go through this program – it's like a doorway leading to so many opportunities, and all you have to do is walk through.

Katrina Richards

Leggett & Platt, Inc.

Leadership Joplin Class of 2014 (Class Speaker)

I attended Leadership Joplin in 2010, and it was a great experience. I thought I knew quite a bit about the City of Joplin, but after attending this great class, I learned so much more about the City and what it has to offer. The contacts that were made during the class were outstanding, and I continue to reach out to my classmates. The Joplin Police Department is very community oriented and this class has only helped to improve with the community focus. The training we received on the Color Code also helped me to become a better supervisor and leader within our agency.

Matt Stewart

Chief - Joplin Police Department

Leadership Joplin Class of 2010 (Class Speaker)

As someone that was new to the area, I believe Leadership Joplin is a must. It provided me the opportunity to learn about Joplin, both personally and professionally. I would recommend every company send their C-level managers to the program for the networking opportunity alone.

Eric Cerini

Leadership Joplin Class of 2014

Leadership Joplin provided me with opportunities to be a better leader for our community. It helped me network within other leaders, as well as learn about the resources and history of Joplin. Leadership Joplin helped me develop into a better leader from the things I've learned through the program. In addition, I've built some great friendships that I wouldn't have otherwise made.

Sarah Mwangi, Principal

Columbia Elementary

Leadership Joplin Class of 2014

Leadership Joplin class was many things for me. I thought I knew Joplin but I was wrong. In every session, I found out new valuable, interesting information about my hometown. For someone that has lived in Joplin for 30-plus years, I had a very limited knowledge base. I also enjoyed the spirit of community that develops within the class. The world looks at Joplin post-tornado and thinks "How did they do it?" It is programs like this that is reflective of our community spirit, community heart and community unity. Many thanks to you, the committee and my leadership class for how you have helped me grow, personally and professionally.

Amy Earp, General Manager

SNC Squared

Leadership Joplin Class of 2014

The Leadership Joplin class was very beneficial for me:

- Allowed me to get to know key contacts in a wide range of businesses in our community.
- I learned a lot about the history of Joplin.
- The sessions allowed us to interact and understand all aspects of our community, media, education, manufacturing, medical, government, etc.
- I am impressed at the support you receive from the community that allows this group to repeat these activities each year.
- The enthusiasm that you and the Leadership Joplin staff/Chamber exhibit are very impressive and add a lot to the experience.

Maurice Ledin

Retired - Modine Manufacturing

Leadership Joplin Class of 2014

I attended Leadership Joplin 2003. During that time I developed great friendships and business partners that I still use today! I loved it so much I stayed on the committee. It's a great way to get to know Joplin and professionals in our community. As the executive director of the Boys & Girls Club, it is a great avenue to show people how to get involved with their community. Non-profits are always looking for time, talent and treasure; what better way than through Leadership Joplin where you meet 40 new professionals a year that have one of those T's to give.

Rhonda Gorham, Director

Boys & Girls Club

Leadership Joplin Class of 2003

Leadership Joplin Steering Committee

Leadership Joplin provides a great review of Joplin's history and local industries. I had no idea what Joplin has to offer in goods and services that reach other areas of the nation, nor did I understand the history of Joplin. I thought I knew, but it became very apparent that I did not.

Donovan Edwards, PHR, CBRM

Senior Manager- Fleet Maintenance

XPO Truckload

Leadership Joplin Class of 2014

Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Leaders are those that lead by example at work, family or their community. Even if you've lived in Joplin your whole life, or you're new to Joplin, Leadership Joplin is for leaders and future leaders to learn more about the community and how your leadership abilities can be utilized. Leadership Joplin is the training that will give you some "a-ha" moments, and help you realize how fortunate we are to live in the Joplin area. One thing I can promise you, you will learn something about Joplin that you didn't know, and you will learn something about yourself that you didn't know. You will build long-lasting relationships and make some good friends. I highly recommend Leadership Joplin for any leaders or future leaders.

Cole Mashburn

Ozarks Coca-Cola Bottling Company

Leadership Joplin Class of 1999

Participating in Leadership Joplin has been one of the best decisions I have made. The educational opportunities presented through

Leadership Joplin concentrated on people, leadership and community. I now have a better understanding of how my leadership skills can be used to impact my organization and the community we serve. I feel that all leaders should take advantage of this opportunity. You'll be glad you did.

Don Allen, Mercy Hospital Joplin

Leadership Joplin Class of 2016 (Class Speaker)

Even though I was raised in Joplin nearly my entire life, there were so many things I learned about our great City through Leadership Joplin. The Chamber and Ginger is wonderful people who really care about this program and its success. I am now on the steering committee for the new class each year and enjoy it more and more as we go along. It's an opportunity you shouldn't miss!

Sherry Lawrence, VP
Southwest Missouri Bank
Leadership Joplin Class of 2008
Leadership Joplin Steering Committee

Leadership Joplin is like the spell and grammar check for the story of your professional story. Leadership Joplin shows your professional strengths and limitations, however, the program gives you the tools you need to enhance your strengths and conquer your limitations. You also can't beat the lasting relationships that you have the opportunity to build with your fellow peers. Leadership Joplin is truly a gem for anyone to experience. If you want to grow in your craft and leadership skills then Leadership Joplin is a definitive must!

Dean Velasco
OXEN Technology
Leadership Joplin Class of 2014
Leadership Joplin Steering Committee

If you have any interest at all in Leadership Joplin, you have to do it. Each session is packed with opportunities to learn, to grow as a leader, and to have fun. I am so grateful that Mercy encouraged me and allowed me to participate in this awesome program. I learned so much from the program itself, but also from the time spent and shared experiences with my classmates.

Simply put, Leadership Joplin will make you a better leader, a better citizen, and most of all, a better person!

Mike Wardlow, Mercy Hospital Joplin
Leadership Joplin Class of 2015 (Class Speaker)
Leadership Joplin Steering Committee

"I have lived in Joplin for 30 years and have never really had a good understanding of how the city and the community work together as a whole. Leadership Joplin allowed me to see the intricate details of what makes this city function and thrive. There's plenty to learn from the observable passion and care from our local not-for-profits to the technology and innovation of our largest transportation and Manufacturing companies. It is a wonderful experience to learn, volunteer, and give back to the community that gives so much to us every day. Leadership Joplin is a must for every leader of the community."

John Motazed
SNC Squared
Leadership Joplin Class of 2013 (Class Speaker)

Leadership Joplin is a great way to meet other leaders in the community. It helps to gain contacts and learn more about your community. It is a hands-on class with very little down time. After taking this class it will make you a stronger leader in your respective fields.

Chad Allison
Joplin Police Department - Retired
Leadership Joplin Class of 2011 (Class Speaker)

Leadership Joplin is a great program that provides many opportunities for you to develop your leadership skills. The highlights of the program for me were building relationships with my classmates, learning about the Joplin community, and discovering my color code. The benefits from Leadership Joplin do not end at graduation; I continue to use what I learned during the program to network with others and grow professionally.

Sherry Noller
Assistant Director of Career Services, MSSU
Leadership Joplin Class of 2013

To say that my Leadership Joplin experience has been incredible would be a gross understatement. Leading up to my enrollment, I heard several stories from my peers and previous graduates about the personal growth that they experienced and the relationships that were developed as a result of completing this program. With that in mind, the stage was set and the bar was even higher than my expectations. As each session progressed, I immediately felt challenged to grow as a leader and to increase my involvement as a community member. Encounters with passionate business leaders and conversations with local authorities and government officials opened up my understanding to the diversity and complexity that can be found in the city of Joplin. These moments have become essential to my own personal development and they will have a lasting impact on the servant leader that I one day hope to become. For me, Leadership Joplin has been nothing short of extraordinary. Not only has it sharpened my professional skills and expanded my network, but more importantly, it has repurposed the fire inside of me to become a better servant leader at home and in my work place.

Isaac Norman
Arvest Bank
Leadership Joplin Class of 2018 (Class Speaker)

Through being involved in Leadership Joplin, I have been challenged to grow as a leader and community member. As a person who did not grow up in the Joplin area (I am originally from St. Louis, MO), being a participant of this program gave me the opportunity to take a deeper look at our community. Not only did I gain more understanding of the diverse businesses and organizations within our community, I came in contact with members of our community who are truly passionate about what they do and where they are located. These encounters and conversations with passionate community members made a lasting impact within my professional network. LJ does not simply introduce you to the community; it connects you to the community. I have been able to better serve my employer because of the professional skills I have gained through Leadership Joplin. Moreover, I am more connected and involved in my community because of the relationships I have developed through LJ.

Alex Gandy
Missouri Southern State University
Leadership Joplin Class of 2017 (Class Speaker)