



Around the Northwest

Issue 1, March 2024

Our Mission

We build, strengthen, and inspire leaders through training and networking experiences.

Our Vision

We envision thriving communities and dynamic leaders.

Our Values

L-Lead
N-Network
W-Worth
M-Motivate
O-Opportunities

Our History

In December 1999, community leaders from Northwest Missouri came together at Conception Abbey to brainstorm about regional issues. One of the issues that came out of this forum was the need for leadership development on a regional scale. The group concluded that while there are many outstanding local leadership development programs in our communities and an excellent statewide program, there are no programs that address leadership development at the regional level.

**LEADERSHIP
NORTHWEST
MISSOURI**

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Scan the QR code above to visit our website, where you can read the most current press releases, find dates of upcoming LNWMO class sessions, and more in between newsletters!

Class of 2024

JANUARY OPENING RETREAT: CONCEPTION ABBEY



Twenty-four women and men came together to begin their leadership journey with the two-day kick-off retreat, January 24 and 25, at Conception Abbey. The opening retreat is where participants are introduced to Leadership Northwest Missouri and their class project. The remainder of their time together is spent on building relationships with their classmates and team development with Dr. Tim Crowley.



Snacks for the retreat were provided by Authentic Leadership Group, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Community Hospital-Fairfax, Shawna & Jacob Dye, Green Hills Regional Planning Commission, Mosaic Medical Center-Maryville, and St. Francis Foundation.

See what attendees had to say about the opening retreat on the next page.



Class of 2024

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE RETREAT...



Members of the 2024 class and the 12 counties they represent are: Jeff Agnew, Ethan Piveral, Atchison County; Sarah Battreall, Isaura Garcia, Victoria Masucci, Carolynn Sollars, Amanda Zessi, Buchanan County; Jordan Wright, Carroll County; Cydney Andrews, David Woody, Clinton County; Nicole Lynch, Daviess County; Chris Martin, DeKalb County; Valarie Shisler, Gentry County; Olivia Burchett, Lauren Dannar, Nevada Fields, Tocarra Williams, Grundy County; Rebecca TenHulzen, Harrison County; Richard Switzer, Linn County; Wes Rockwood, Vanessa Slempe, Ashley Turner, Shelby Wood, Nodaway County; Rachel Brown, Worth County.

"The opening retreat was nothing short of inspirational. I came into this experience with modest expectations and Leadership Northwest didn't just surpass them, they completely blew them out of the water. Instead of professional development that merely checks off boxes, the opening retreat revealed the exceptional capacities for leadership we already possess and has already started to cultivate them through meaningful connections with one another. I can't wait for what this journey has in store for all of us and our region."

Tocarra Williams, Grundy County

"I am blown away by how much I took away from the opening retreat and I cannot wait to keep going! Not only did I leave on Thursday afternoon more confident in myself, I also left with the start of many new lifelong friendships that will prove to be beneficial not only to me, but to those that I serve across the Northwest region."

Rachel Brown, Worth County

"The Leadership Northwest Missouri opening retreat proved to be an incredibly enriching experience. Over the span of just a few days, the visionary organizers of this event completely reshaped my understanding of leadership. Personally, I found myself delving into self-discovery, and the bonds formed with my fellow classmates were truly invaluable. Adding to the overall brilliance of the retreat was the enchanting setting of Conception Abbey—a place of serene beauty that offered the perfect backdrop for introspection and mental clarity."

Isaura Garcia, Buchanan County

Class of 2024

FEBRUARY: SLICED BREAD INNOVATION CENTER



The second session for the Class of 2024 took place in Chillicothe at the Sliced Bread Innovation Center. Snacks were provided by the planning team and Missouri Sound and Technology and the venue was sponsored by Matt and Jessica Trussell.

The regional topic for February was Economic Development. Special guests included Crystal Narr-Chillicothe Chamber of Commerce, Tomie Walker-Main Street Chillicothe, Scott Sharp-Missouri Department of Economic Development, Brent Stevens-Workforce Development Board for Northwest Missouri, Kate Fredrickson-Green Hills Communications, Catherine Hamilton-Hedrick Medical Center, and a surprise visit from Missouri State Senator Rusty Black and his grandson.

Dr. Tim introduced the Leadership Challenge to the class during this session and covered the first core practice: Model the Way.



Music Jam 2024

The Leadership Northwest Music Jam, presented by Wright Memorial Hospital and Hedrick Medical Center, is set to make its return for the fourth consecutive year at Black Silo Winery in Trenton, MO. As in previous years, ticket proceeds will benefit the Leadership Northwest Missouri program, but a significant addition to this year's festivities is the introduction of a scholarship initiative. For the first time, Leadership Northwest Missouri will offer two \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors. One scholarship will be awarded to a student from Grundy County, the hosting county for the Music Jam, while the second scholarship will go to a student from any of the 19 counties within the Northwest Missouri region.

For those interested in sponsorship information or seeking more event details, please contact Shane Lynch at email: slynch@saintlukeskc.org or call 660-358-5834.



2024 Music Jam Scholarship

Interested students can get more information from their high school counselor.

Application deadline is April 1, 2024, and completed submissions can be emailed to leadershipnorthwestmissouri@gmail.com.

Scholarship funds will be directly submitted to the institution selected by the awarded students.



Click on the "apply" image above to go the application.

"We are humbled and thrilled that the Leadership Northwest Music Jam has reached a new level, enabling us to give back and award students with these scholarships. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support and generosity of our sponsors and every individual who has purchased a ticket to the Music Jam over the last three years. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each one of you."

Shane Lynch

The Leadership Northwest Music Jam committee for this year's event includes Shane Lynch, Jenna Stevens, Marcia Cox, and Scott Sharp.

LNWMO Honored



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2024

The Leadership Northwest Missouri classes of 2001, 2002, and 2003 received the first Northwest Missouri Citizen of the Year Award at the 2024 Great Northwest Day at the Capitol event held February 6 and 7, 2024, in Jefferson City. These three classes were the founders of the annual event and were recognized with a plaque at the evening reception in the Capital Plaza Ballroom.

“This group of dedicated leaders saw a need for collaboration and communication throughout the region. On behalf of Leadership Northwest Missouri Board, Alumni, and myself, we are honored to receive the Citizen of the Year Award. The recognition is immensely appreciated.”

**Kendra Pickering, Executive Director,
Leadership Northwest Missouri**



Leaders passionately believe that they can make a difference. They envision the future, creating an ideal and unique image of what the organization can become. Through their magnetism and quiet persuasion, leaders enlist others in their dreams. They breathe life into their visions and get people to see exciting possibilities for the future.

Alumni

**Leadership Northwest Missouri
Apparel Store now open through
midnight on March 28!**

ORDER
HERE



ALUMNI

**Do you need to update your
records with LNWMO?**

Click on the update icon below to
update your records on-line so
you don't miss out on future
communications.

UPDATE

*Click on "update" image above to go to the
website and update your information.*

Message from our Alumni Head Goose – Melissa Birdsell

Several of our alumni joined the newcomers this year at the kick-off retreat at Conception Abbey in January and reminisced about their first meeting with Leadership Northwest. Some of us in attendance were board members, some were brand new alumni, and some were from WAY back and just dropped in to meet the new class. It definitely took us on a trip down memory lane!

It got us thinking that we would love to hear from all of you too. Would you share your favorite memories with us from your time with Leadership Northwest Missouri? How has it affected the way you work and live in your community? In the region? Anything you recall as particularly helpful? Any connections that have continued beyond class?

If you have not already, like our Alumni Facebook page below, and share your favorite memories and experiences with other alumni. Let's see if we can flood Facebook with great things about LNWMO!

**Keep in touch via Facebook by
clicking on the links below!**

[Leadership Northwest Missouri](#)

[Leadership Northwest Missouri Alumni](#)

[Leadership Northwest Missouri](#)

[Community Events](#)

Board Members

Board Member Spotlights

Marcus Casady



Marcus Casady, class of 2017, has served on the board since 2020. He serves several roles for Holt County, including Emergency Management Director – Economic Developer, Floodplain Administrator, County Health Department Planning, and Emergency Medical Responder.

Marcus joined the Leadership NWMO board to help organize and promote the program while assisting regional leaders to make personal and leadership advancement. In his past time, he enjoys a busy secular schedule which is governed by his priorities of faith, family and community. His two grandsons are at the top of that list.

Dr. Kristen Alley



Dr. Kristen Alley, class of 2009, has served on the board since 2020. She serves as the Vice President of Student Affairs for North Central Missouri College in Trenton. Kristen joined the board of directors as an opportunity to give back to the great organization that has regional and individual impact, and she says that, “directly and indirectly, Leadership Northwest is leaving a wonderful legacy”.

Over the years she has encouraged others in her organization to get involved with LNWMO, and through them, she has enjoyed watching the organization grow and develop.

Kristen, her husband, and son, live in an 1800's farmhouse, and in their spare time they always find things to do both inside and out. Together they enjoy boating, swimming, and watching the KC Royals.

Board Members

Jennifer Jarvis-President	Marcie Cutsinger
Melissa Birdsell-Secretary	Heather Nicholas
Lesley Delaney-Treasurer	Kasi Norris
Kristen Alley	Cole Soptic
Matt Barry	Jackie Spainhower
Marcus Casady	Carrie Watkins

Staff

Kendra Pickering – Executive Director

Upcoming Meetings

March 14, Zoom
April 11, Zoom
May 9, Zoom

2024 Sponsors

Leadership Northwest Missouri is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization. The vitality of this program depends upon the commitment of dedicated individuals, businesses, and organizations. For more information on how you can contribute to the success of this program, whether through participation as a corporate sponsor or by making a tax-deductible contribution, contact any of our alumni, email: leadershipnorthwestmissouri@gmail.com, or click on the big blue heart to link to our 2024 pledge form. (Descriptions of each sponsorship level on next page.)

Affiliate

Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri

Program Sponsors

PLATINUM

BTC Bank

GOLD

US Bank

SILVER

Carroll County Memorial Hospital

Farmers State Bank

Hedrick Medical Center/Wright Memorial Hospital

Mosaic Health System

North Central Missouri College

Northwest Missouri State University

BRONZE

Carroll County Chamber

Nodaway Valley Bank

Northwest Health Services

St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce

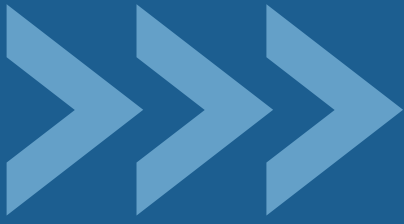
Trenton Abstract & Title



**We love
our LNWMO
sponsors!**
(link to donate)

Leadership Northwest Missouri greatly appreciates donations of any size from individuals and organizations to help further its mission to build, strengthen and inspire leaders. Visit www.leadershipnorthwestmissouri.org to make a tax deductible donation.

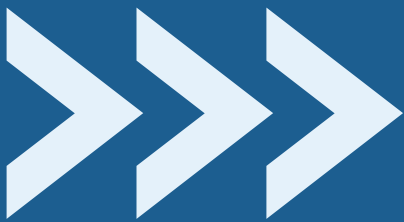
2024 Sponsorship Levels



Platinum Level
\$1,500 and up

Platinum Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and share business information
- VIP seating at the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony (complimentary)
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders
- Business feature post on Facebook page
- Featured in 2024 class media release
- Banner displayed at events



Gold Level
\$1,000 - \$1,499

Gold Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and share business information
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony (complimentary)
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders
- Business feature post on Facebook page



Silver Level
\$500 - \$999

Silver Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and introduce yourself and your organization
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders



Bronze Level
\$100 - \$499

Bronze Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony

SPONSOR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VITAL TO OUR MISSION.