



Around the Northwest

Issue 2, June 2025

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 2025

February 20 – Trenton



The second session of the 2025 Leadership Northwest Missouri class was held at North Central Missouri College in Trenton. A big thank you to the Planning Team and Missouri Sound and Tech for providing delicious snacks to fuel the day's activities. Lunch was provided by NCMC's Great Western Dining, and sponsored by North Central Missouri Development Alliance.

Lauren Dannar led the session as "Head Goose," supported by an outstanding planning committee: Olive Burchett, Nevada Fields, Rebecca TenHulzen, Tocarra Williams, and Amanda Zessi.

The regional focus of the day was Mental Health, with engaging discussions led by special guests:

- Jackie Spotic, Mayor of Trenton, Class of 2004
- Phillip Ray, Grundy County Presiding Commissioner
- Dr. Lindsay Oram, Psychology Faculty and Psychologist, NCMC, Class of 2018
 - Janna Ingram, Behavioral Health Faculty, NCMC
 - Amy May, Chief Operations Officer, NCMC Mental Health
 - Tocarra Williams, TRIO Director, NCMC, Class of 2024



Dr. Tim introduced the first leadership principle from The Leadership Challenge — Model the Way — laying a strong foundation for the sessions to come.



Class of 2025

March 20 – Cameron



The third session of the 2025 Leadership Northwest Missouri program took place at the historic Old School in Cameron. Attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by the 2024 Planning Team and Paigstries, while lunch—courtesy of Kingdom Coffee and generously sponsored by Farmers State Bank (Gold Sponsor)—kept everyone energized for the day.

Chris Martin served as “Head Goose” for the session, with thoughtful planning and support from committee members Jeff Agnew, Rachel Brown, Lauren Dannar, Nicole Lynch, and Ethan Pivalar.

The theme for the day was Economic Development, and participants heard insights and experiences from a dynamic lineup of local leaders and entrepreneurs:

- Staci Earley, President of the Chamber of Commerce and co-owner of Re/MAX Partners

- Stephanie Williams, Class of 2017, and Dillan Klindt, North Central Missouri Business Facilitation
- Kevin and Linda Krentz, owners of 3rd Street Fusion
- Mike O'Donnell, owner of O'Donnell Motor Company and Cameron Fire Chief
- Jill Claire, BTC Bank (Platinum Sponsor), Class of 2013
- Duane Kohlstaedt, President and CEO, Farmers State Bank (Gold Sponsor)

To round out the day, Dr. Tim introduced the second practice from The Leadership Challenge: Inspire a Shared Vision, encouraging participants to imagine and communicate a future that draws others in.



Class of 2025

April 17 – Carrollton



The April session brought the Leadership Northwest Missouri Class of 2025 to BTC Bank in Carrollton, where participants explored the vital topic of Healthcare. Thanks to Carroll County Memorial Hospital (Silver Sponsor) for providing refreshments, and to Farmhouse Café for the delicious lunch, sponsored by BTC Bank (Platinum Sponsor).

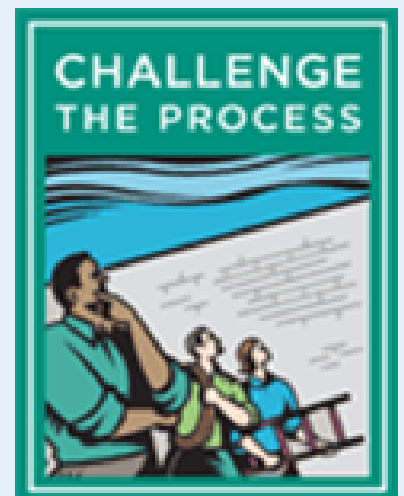
Jordan Wright took the lead as “Head Goose” for the day, with excellent support from the

planning team: Olivia Burchett, Nevada Fields, Nicole Lynch, and Valarie Shisler.

The session featured a range of expert speakers representing Carroll County’s diverse healthcare landscape:

- Jeffery Martin, Director of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Class of 2023
- Stan Falke, Presiding Commissioner
- Scott Thoreson, CEO, Carroll County Memorial Hospital
- Jodi Ahnefeld, Owner, Jodi’s Family Pharmacy
- Dr. John Poston, Owner, Poston Dental Care
- Jennifer Link, RN/Administrator, Carroll County Health Department
- Mike Hill, Executive Vice President & Chief Administration Officer, BTC Bank
- Christy Crawford, Clinical Provider Supervisor, Burrell Behavioral Health

Dr. Tim introduced the third practice from The Leadership Challenge, Challenge the Process, which encourages leaders to step outside the status quo and embrace innovation. The session also featured an inspiring visit from Tracey Wozny, nonprofit founder, speaker, and entertainer, who brought fresh energy and perspective to the group.



Class of 2025

May 15 – Maryville



In May, the Leadership Northwest Missouri Class of 2025 gathered at the Agricultural Learning Center on the campus of Northwest Missouri State University for a day focused on Agriculture—one of the region’s most vital industries. Northwest Missouri State University (Silver Sponsor) provided refreshments, while Planet Sub served up lunch, sponsored by Southern Bank.

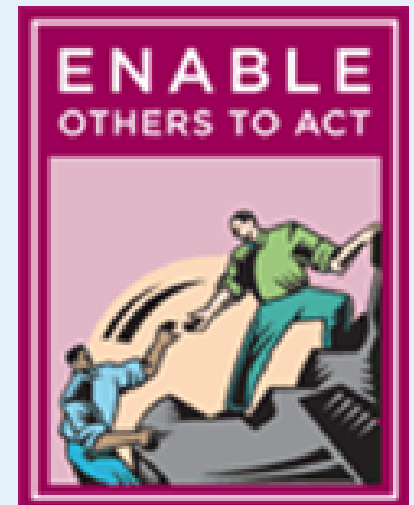
The day was co-led by “Head Geese” Shelby Wood and Wes Rockwood, with help from a strong planning team: Rachel Brown, Ethan Piveral, Valarie Shisler, Vanessa Slemph, and Ashley Turner.

Participants heard from several speakers who shared insights into the local agricultural landscape:

- Amy Hoyt, Agriculture Sciences Recruitment Coordinator, Northwest Missouri State University
- Mandy Herron, Local Flower Farmer, Flower and Forged Farms
- Megan Johnson, Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bank (Silver Class Sponsor)
- Jim Blackford, Business Development Officer, Southern Bank

Dr. Tim continued the leadership journey by introducing the fourth practice from The Leadership Challenge: Enable Others to Act, encouraging collaboration and trust as the foundation of effective leadership.

To wrap up the day, the class visited MOERA, Northwest’s experiential learning facility, where they participated in team-building activities designed to strengthen communication, cooperation, and connection.



Board & Alumni

Board Members

Matt Barry-President
Jackie Spainhower-Vice President
Kasi Norris-Secretary
Lesley Delaney-Treasurer
Sarah Battreall
Melissa Birdsell
Marcie Cutsinger
Brittany Higgins
Carolynn Sollars
Cole Soptic
Carrie Watkins

Kendra Pickering - Executive Director

Upcoming Meetings

June 12 - Zoom

July 24 - In person, location TBD

August 7 - Zoom

September 11 - Zoom

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.

Board Member Spotlight Carrie Watkins



A 2023 graduate of Leadership Northwest Missouri, Carrie serves as the Community Engagement Director at Voices of Courage Child Advocacy Center. In this role, she helps build partnerships, raise awareness, and connect the community with critical support services for children and families.

Inspired by her own experience in the program, she joined the Leadership Northwest board after graduation to support future classes and help grow the organization. That same year, she was honored with the Leadership Northwest Missouri Citizenship Award in recognition of her outstanding community involvement.

In her free time, she enjoys cooking and watching movies with her family, tackling home projects like furniture rehab and decorating, and spending time outdoors with her plants.

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

[Leadership Northwest Missouri](#)

[Leadership Northwest Missouri Alumni](#)

[Leadership Northwest Missouri
Community Events](#)

Upcoming Events



Wednesday, June 25

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*Mosaic Life Care Foundation/emPowerU
518 South 6th St, St. Joseph, MO 64501*

LEADERSHIP
NORTHWEST
MISSOURI

**Not sure what to do after high school?
Explore career options and leadership
opportunities offered in:**

- Unions/Trades
- Military
- College
- Small Business/Entrepreneurship

REGISTER



SCAN ME

Leadership Northwest Missouri and emPowerU are partnering for the Take the LEAP event on June 25, 2025. The day will include breakfast, rotations to meet with local leaders, a networking lunch, ***and finish up with Dr. Tim Crowley as you learn how to make a splash as a leader!***



Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE



JULY 17TH 6-8:30PM
STONEY CREEK IN ST. JOSEPH



CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION

More information to come!



THE SILVER LININGS

LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST MISSOURI

*Helping Communities and Leaders
Thrive for 25 Years*



Upcoming Events



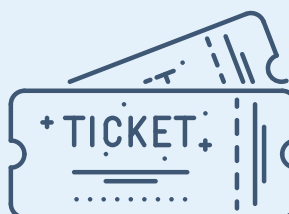
Leadership Northwest Music Jam presented by Wright Memorial Hospital and Hedrick Medical Center will return to celebrate the event's fifth consecutive year by bringing back many favorite performers from the last four years! This milestone year will once again be held at Black Silo Winery in Trenton, MO on Saturday, August 30 during Trenton's Alumni weekend celebration.

Returning to the stage and headlining the 2025 event is rising Country Music star and hit songwriter Ryan Griffin, who headlined the event in 2022. Also, to commemorate its fifth year, the Music Jam will also feature the return of fan-favorite local performers from past events: Charlie Bacon, Salem Croy, Sam Gibson, Makayla Mejia, and Travis Mullenix — all sharing the stage for the first time together in what promises to be a powerful and nostalgic lineup.

Leadership Northwest Music Jam is a fundraising event for the Leadership Northwest Missouri (LNWMO) program and scholarship initiative for high school seniors.

Event details:

- Doors open at 6:30pm. Music starts at 7:30pm.
- Tickets are general admission. Tickets are \$25 in advance, price increases to \$30 on the day of the show.
- This is an outside event - rain or shine.
- Seating is limited, lawn chairs are welcome. Otherwise, standing room only.
- Food trucks will be available for dinner options again this year.



[Click to buy tickets today!](#)

Scholarships

Scholarships Awarded to High School Graduates

Leadership Northwest Missouri is proud to announce the recipients of its 2025 scholarships, awarded to exceptional high school seniors within the region. Now in its second year, the scholarship program has expanded to provide two \$1,000 awards—doubling its previous impact and reaffirming the organization's commitment to empowering young leaders through education.

These scholarships are funded by proceeds from the annual Leadership Northwest Music Jam, a community-driven event that celebrates local talent.

One scholarship is reserved for a student from Grundy County, home of the Music Jam, while the second is open to students from the broader 19-county Northwest Missouri region.

This year's recipients are Brayden Bell of Trenton High School and Paige Woods of Stanberry High School. Brayden plans to attend North Central Missouri College, pursuing an Associate in Arts – Transfer degree. Paige will enroll at Northwest Missouri State University, where she will major in Elementary Education.

"We are excited to award these scholarships to Brayden and Paige," said Jenna Stevens, Music Jam Committee Member. "Their academic records, leadership abilities, and dedication to their communities set them apart. We're excited to support their next steps and look forward to seeing the positive impact they'll have in Northwest Missouri."

Leadership Northwest Missouri extends sincere congratulations to both scholars and wishes them continued success in their academic and personal journeys.

2025
**LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST MISSOURI
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**



Brayden Bell **Paige Woods**

2025 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 2025 donation/sponsorship page. (Descriptions of each sponsorship level on next page.)



Click on the heart above to see our full list of donors.

Affiliate

Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri

Program Sponsors

PLATINUM

BTC Bank

GOLD

Altec

Farmer's State Bank

SILVER

Carroll County Memorial Hospital

Hedrick Medical Center/Wright Memorial Hospital

Mosaic Health System

North Central Missouri College

Northwest Missouri State University

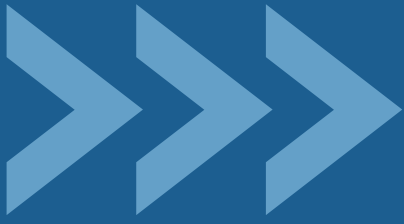
US Bank

BRONZE

St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce

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.

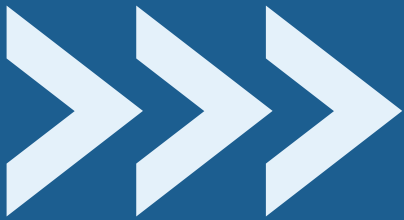
2025 Sponsorship Opportunities



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

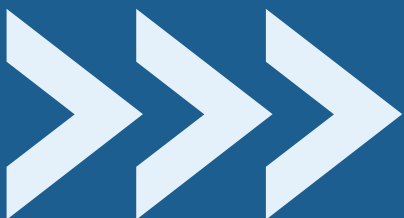
- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and share business information
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony (complimentary)
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders
- Business feature post on Facebook page



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.