



Leadership  
**Northwest**  
MISSOURI

# Around the Northwest

June 2026

## 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.



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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!

THE  
CAMERA  
ROLL



# Graduation Season



## Leadership Northwest Missouri

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

July 16th, 2026

6:00 - 8:30 PM

Jamesport, Missouri

Please join us as we celebrate our graduates

It's hard to believe how quickly the year has passed for the Leadership Northwest Class of 2026. What once felt like the beginning of a long journey has truly flown by, and now we find ourselves preparing to celebrate a group of individuals who have grown, connected, and led with purpose throughout this experience.

The 2026 class has been highly engaged from the start, bringing strong perspectives and a willingness to learn and collaborate. Over the course of the program, that engagement turned into solid relationships and a clear sense of shared purpose. It's been exciting to watch the group come together and build trust while learning more about the region and each other.

Leadership Northwest continues to have a meaningful impact both personally and professionally. As they prepare to graduate, we look forward to seeing how they take what they've learned back to their organizations and communities. Graduation will be a great opportunity to recognize their efforts and celebrate the impact they are ready to make moving forward.

Graduation for the Class of 2026 will be held July 16, 2026, from 6:00–8:30 p.m. at the Spillman Event Center in Jamesport. We are excited to celebrate the accomplishments of this cohort and invite family, friends, alumni, and supporters to join us for this special evening.

Please register by July 6<sup>th</sup> at

<https://www.leadershipnorthwestmissouri.org/2026graduation/>

We hope you'll join us as we recognize and celebrate this outstanding group of leaders!



# Looking Ahead

## Time to Start Thinking About the Next Leadership Northwest MO Class

While the current Leadership Northwest Class of 2026 is still in the midst of its journey, it's not too early to start thinking about what comes next. Each year, the strength of the program depends on identifying and encouraging individuals who are ready to grow, lead, and make a difference in their communities—and that process starts well before applications open.

The next Leadership Northwest cohort will begin in January 2027, with applications becoming available early this fall. That may seem like plenty of time, but the best candidates are often those who are thoughtfully considered and encouraged in advance. Taking time now to reflect on potential participants allows organizations and communities to be intentional about who they support for this opportunity.

If you know someone who would benefit from Leadership Northwest, now is the time to start that conversation. Ideal candidates are those who are engaged in their work and community, open to new perspectives, and interested in building connections across the region. Many participants find that the program not only strengthens their leadership skills, but also expands their understanding of regional issues and collaboration.

Leadership Northwest continues to play an important role in developing leaders who are committed to making a positive impact. By identifying and preparing future participants early, we ensure the program remains strong and continues to serve our communities well.

As the current class continues their work over the coming months, we encourage you to look ahead and help shape the next cohort. A simple conversation today can lead to meaningful growth and opportunity for someone tomorrow.

# About the LNWMO Board of Directors

The Leadership Northwest Missouri Board of Directors plays a critical role in guiding the organization's success. The board oversees strategy, finances, and mission execution, while also supervising the Executive Director, who manages day-to-day operations.

Board members serve three-year terms aligned with the July–June fiscal year, with up to 12 voting members. Their commitment includes attending approximately 12 board meetings annually, participating in committee work, and engaging with program activities.

In addition to these responsibilities, the board holds fiduciary oversight of the organization, ensuring sound financial management and compliance with nonprofit (501(c)(3) requirements. Strong participation and attendance are essential, as each member plays a key role in maintaining accountability and advancing the organization's mission.



# Celebrating Our Outgoing Board Members

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to several board members who are completing their terms of service with Leadership Northwest Missouri this June: Jackie Spainhower, Marci Cutsinger, Kasi Norris, Cole Soptic, and Carrie Watkins.

Each of these individuals has generously given their time, talents, and leadership to support our mission of developing strong leaders across the Great Northwest region. Their dedication has helped guide the organization's growth, strengthen our programs, and ensure continued impact in the communities we serve. We are truly grateful for their service and the lasting contributions they have made.

As we say goodbye, we also look ahead with excitement. In July, we will welcome five new board members, and we are eager to get to know them and the perspectives and energy they will bring to the organization.

*Thank You*

# Board & Alumni

## Board Members

Jackie Spainhower-President  
Rachel Brown- Vice President  
Kasi Norris-Secretary  
Brittany Higgins-Treasurer  
Sarah Battreall  
Olivia Burchett  
Marcie Cutsinger  
Brittney Siddens  
Carolynn Sollars  
Cole Soptic  
Carrie Watkins  
Jordan Wright

Kendra Pickering-Clements -  
Executive Director

### Upcoming Meetings

June 11, 2026 - Zoom  
July 23, 2026 - TBD  
August 6, 2026 -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.

A rectangular button with a white border and a dark blue background. The word "UPDATE" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters in the center.

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

## Board Member Spotlight Jackie Spainhower



A 2015 graduate of Leadership NWMO, Jackie is a Community Development Specialist with University of Missouri Extension and joined the board because she believes strong communities start with strong local leaders. She is passionate about investing in leadership development to support the future of the Great Northwest region. Outside of work, Jackie enjoys cheering on her daughter at Worth County High School events and dance competitions, shopping, reading, and spending time with her family's hunting dogs.

Please join us in thanking Jackie for her time on the LNWMO Board, including serving as Board President this past year. We are grateful for her thoughtful and inspiring leadership and wish her all the best in her next chapter.

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

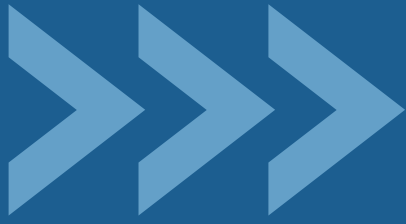
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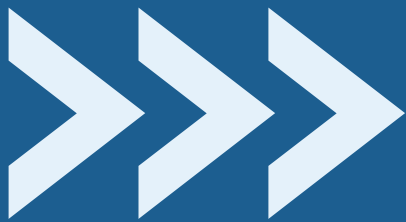
# 2026 Sponsorship Opportunities



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.