

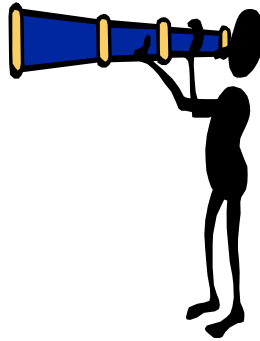
## St. Cloud Area Leadership



- **Communities need leaders** who not only understand the future but also help to create it. Just as issues change, so does the pool of leadership. Continuing to add leaders to the community becomes a vital part of our on-going **growth and success.**

- **Community leaders must pay attention to global trends,** population shifts, cultural diversity, economic restructuring, health care reform and telecommunications technology. Community leaders who understand and can **manage change, work cooperatively, and plan creatively** will have the biggest impact on reshaping and preparing their communities for the future.

- **St. Cloud Area Leadership is designed to help current and emerging leaders** understand the dynamics of the community and the role leadership shares in building healthy communities. This program brings together men and women of diverse backgrounds to share a common commitment to the **future of the St. Cloud area.**

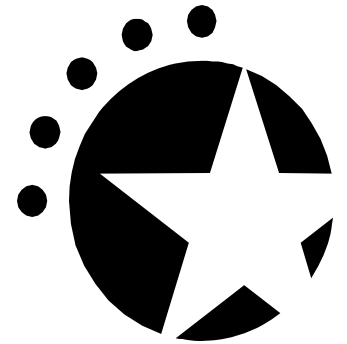


- Whether you have lived in the area for a short time or for decades, St. Cloud Area Leadership will **open your eyes to new challenges and opportunities** and the role you can play in shaping the future of Central Minnesota.

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”**

**Margaret Mead**

## St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce



## St. Cloud Area Leadership

A community leadership program tailored to meet the changing needs of Central Minnesota.



## St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce

St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce  
110 Sixth Avenue South, PO Box 487  
St. Cloud, MN 56302-0487

Phone: 320-251-2940  
Fax: 320-251-0081

Web site: [www.StCloudAreaChamber.com](http://www.StCloudAreaChamber.com)

### **Value to Employers:**

- Grooms leaders that will contribute to your company
- Provides professional networking opportunities and enhanced community connections
- Helps employees develop greater personal vision and confidence
- Creates positive internal public relations
- Reinforces skills and imparts new knowledge to employees
- Improves an employee's ability to think like an owner

### **About the Program:**

- St. Cloud Area Leadership is a nine month program. Sessions begin in September and end with graduation in May. The classes are on the second Thursday of each month from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The annual retreat consists of two full-day sessions with one overnight stay in Oct.
- Each session focuses on one or two issues critical to our region's future success. Speakers from the area discuss how you can use your leadership abilities to influence the outcome on the following topics: Business and Economic Development, Government, Social Services, Education, and Criminal Justice.
- Twenty-five to thirty people are selected to participate in the program. A formal written application must be completed and applicants are then chosen based on personal interviews conducted by leadership alumni. All applicants are notified of their status by the end of July.

### **Alumni in Action:**

Join the ranks of our distinguished alumni! In the 19 years that the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce has sponsored St. Cloud Area Leadership, over 475 people have graduated from the program. These alumni have gone on to become business leaders, city council members, state representatives, non-profit board members, community advocates, school board members, small business owners, and Chamber volunteers.

*"Participating in the Chamber's Leadership Program was a wonderful experience for me. As I look at the benefit to my company, the networking opportunities and ongoing communication between class members provides support to my business. I encourage everyone to experience the Chamber's Leadership Program – a very worthwhile experience!"*

Melody Peterson,  
Co-Owner, Playhouse Child Care Center, Inc.

*"The program was instrumental in helping me learn about different aspects of the community that I would not normally be exposed to, provided a great networking opportunity (I'm still in touch with some class members) and the background to help determine how I wanted to get involved in the community."*

Tom Rickers  
President, Bremer, St. Cloud

*"When I started the Chamber Leadership Program I figured I'd connect with some business leaders, get a community overview and be called to do my part. But somewhere between the skits at the fall retreat, lunch at a local soup kitchen, and a taser demonstration, I received something so much more powerful - a community. The Leadership Program connected me with a group of individuals who challenged, encouraged and inspired me."*

Dawn Zimmerman  
Owner, The Write Advantage, Inc.

*"As a small business owner, you are not always exposed to the many opportunities the St. Cloud area has to offer. The Leadership Program will dramatically increase your knowledge about the history, development, and future of our community. This is valuable information when developing a plan for your business."*

Brian Musech  
Owner, Batteries Plus

*"The Chamber Leadership program has been of paramount significance in my becoming an active and grateful member of this community. I had the opportunity to learn first hand about government, business, arts, education and the wonderful people who contribute to the vitality of St. Cloud. I am eternally thankful."*

Bob Johnson  
Executive Director, Central Minn. Heart Center,  
St. Cloud City Council member

*"The Chamber Leadership Program provides an incredible opportunity to meet wonderful people while enjoying insightful and inspiring experiences. It is a great entry point and launching platform for anyone looking to make connections and learn more about this community we live and work in."*

Jason Hallonquist  
CFP®, AIS Planning

**www.StCloudAreaChamber.com**  
**Click on 'Leadership Program' from the Quick Links menu.**

### **Value to Participants:**

- Provides greater understanding and a broader perspective of key issues in Central Minnesota
- Encourages networking between emerging and established leaders
- Increases understanding of community needs and appreciation of the role community history plays in current decision-making
- Enhances and improves existing leadership skills
- Motivates participants to seek out leadership roles in their communities and workplaces

### **Fees:**

Tuition for St. Cloud Area Leadership is \$800. Because this is a program of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, members in good standing receive a 30 percent discount on the regular price, for a fee of \$550. Tuition is non-refundable. Full fee payment is due to the Chamber of Commerce by the end of August.

### **Application Information:**

Applications must be submitted by May 31 to the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce at 110 Sixth Ave. S, St. Cloud, MN 56302. Individuals who represent an ethnic/minority community perspective are encouraged to apply. Scholarships may be available.

**To receive an application or for more information:**

**Call:** 320-251-2940, ext. 109  
**Email:** givers@StCloudAreaChamber.com