

**The Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce**  
418 S. Main Street ~ P.O. Box 428  
Elkhart, IN 46515  
**(574) 293-1531 / Fax (574) 294-1859** [www.elkhart.org](http://www.elkhart.org)

The Mission of the Elkhart Leadership Academy is to promote servant leadership through an awareness program that combines key community issues and enhanced leadership skill development to advance community stewardship.

*“Each of us must be the change we want to see in the world” – Mahatma Gandhi*

Dear Employer

Thank you for your interest in the Elkhart Leadership Academy sponsored by the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber member companies throughout Elkhart County are invited to send an employee who has demonstrated a potential for leadership. In its 24th year, the Elkhart Leadership Academy’s nine-month program exposes each participant to key community issues and specific leadership capacities necessary for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Over the last sixteen years, the Elkhart Leadership Academy has been successful in making participants aware of the Elkhart Community. However, we realize that our previous classes may have neglected providing more substantive leadership skills. This year we are embarking upon a new curriculum, which involves both community awareness and leadership skill development.

The first three sessions will focus on key issues facing the Elkhart Community. The next three sessions will be designed to promote skill development in the following areas: problem solving, teambuilding, conflict management, and decision-making and communication skills. The final three sessions will combine both awareness and skill development by connecting participants to organizations currently working to address community issues. Participants will be involved in a group project as well as serve one-year board internship with a local nonprofit organization.

We ask that when you consider candidates from your organization, you look for candidates who have demonstrated a potential for leadership and growth within your organization. Our goal is to provide Leadership Academy graduates who are aware of significant community issues and skilled to help creatively solve the problem. We understand that graduates of this nature will also be a great asset to local corporations such as your own. Thank you for help us in this process.

Please carefully review, complete and return this application form to the Elkhart Chamber of Commerce on or before August 26, 2011.

Thank you again for your interest in the Elkhart Leadership Academy. Please don’t hesitate to contact, Denise at the Elkhart Chamber at 574-293-1531 ext. 132 or [dpolachek@elkhart.org](mailto:dpolachek@elkhart.org) if you have any questions.

Good Luck!

Christine Martin, Chair  
Leadership Council

**2011 – 2012**  
**ELKHART LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CALENDAR**

<u>Session Date</u>	<u>Session Topic</u>
August 31, 2011	Orientation
September 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Overnight Leadership Retreat
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Quality of Life
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Community Connections
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Economics/Government/Demographics/ Entrepreneurism
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ethical Decision Making/Diversity
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Conflict Resolution/Board Development/ Problem Solving
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Arts & Culture/Visionary Skills
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Education Day
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Eureka Day – Graduation Luncheon

**Note:** Leadership Academy sessions run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,  
 And are held the second Wednesday of the month.

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**Graduate & Sponsor Comments:**

*“I have a greater appreciation for the different service opportunities and needs of the Elkhart Community. I will search for activities for which I have true passion and try to become a leader in those activities.” – Brian J. Clark, Barnes & Thornburg*

*“...Anyone who is interested in furthering her or his business career will benefit from the experience. Truly an invaluable resource for improving one’s “connection” within the business community.” – Don Chupp, President & General Manager, Adams & Westlake, LTD*

**The Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce  
Elkhart Leadership Academy Application  
2011-2012**

**Deadline for submitting your application is August 26, 2011**  
*~Please type or print ~*

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your primary duties/responsibilities with your employer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list your current community involvement and volunteer work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List three people in our community whom you consider to be leaders:

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you expect to gain from participating in the Elkhart Leadership Academy? \_\_\_\_\_

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## EMPLOYER'S AGREEMENT

Employers are in a position to recognize leadership potential. Therefore, applicants for the Elkhart Leadership Academy must have the full support and commitment of their employer because attending the overnight retreat and the subsequent eight monthly sessions is mandatory in order to successfully complete the program. The signature of the applicant's supervisor or head of the organization is needed below.

\_\_\_\_\_ has my support for the time commitment required to  
Academy Applicant's Name actively participate in the Elkhart Leadership Academy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## TUITION

The Tuition invoice will be mailed to you upon acceptance into the Elkhart Leadership Academy. Tuition is \$1100.00 for Chamber Members and \$1800.00 for Non-Members payable September 2, 2011. **Payment is final. No refunds will be allowed.**

## SCHOLARSHIP

Will you need consideration for a partial scholarship? (Scholarship funds are limited to not-for-profit organizations or home-based businesses based on the Bylaws of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_, Please explain \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICANT'S AGREEMENT

The Elkhart Leadership Academy is a learning experience and requires a commitment of time on behalf of the participant. **Participants must have the full support and commitment of their employer because attending the overnight retreat and the subsequent eight monthly sessions is mandatory in order to successfully complete the program.** In addition, the participant will be expected to participate in a project group that will require attending meetings outside of the Academy sessions. Attendance substitution is not allowed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATION IS August 26, 2011.**

All applicants will be notified of their status in August 2010.