



Ignite Leadership

Developing skills that spark community change

Des Moines, IA

Association of Leadership Programs

Presents:

Midwest Regional Conference
June 16-17, 2016



WELCOME

The Association of Leadership Programs expresses grateful appreciation to the host leadership program and the many volunteers who helped to support this regional conference with their time and talents!



Conference Planning Committee

Chair: Amy Jennings, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, IA

- Ryan Crane, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, IA
- Hollie Tometich, Ottumwa Leadership Academy, IA
- Cheri Gengler, Leadership Twin Cities, MN
- Carlos Sanchez, Latino Talent Initiative, WI
- Brenda Banistiter, Hall County Leadership Unlimited, NE
- Lynda Shafer, Leadership Omaha, NE
- Lynn Wood, Leadership Greater Madison, WI
- Tedi Winnett, Leadership Kenosha County, WI
- Harriet Harral, Leadership Fort Worth, TX
- Lura Hammond, ALP Executive Director, TX

The Des Moines Experience

Attendees should meet in the lobby of the Embassy Suites at 3:45pm.
Attire for the evening is casual.

- 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Bus or bike tour of downtown Des Moines
– Sponsored by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Welcome to Des Moines Reception - The Hub Spot
- 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Des Moines Flavor - Alumni will recommend great restaurants that give you a taste of Des Moines' culinary scene.
- 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. Night Views of the City - Finish your evening with a beverage and a breathtaking, 360 degree view of the Des Moines skyline.

About Des Moines, IA



As Iowa's capital city, Des Moines is the hub of government action, business activity and cultural events. Our city offers an array of entertainment choices, quality education, public services and friendly neighborhoods.

Thank you to the following sponsors who helped make the Des Moines Experience possible!



SPEAKERS

LUNCHEON SHANE J. LOPEZ, PH.D.

TOPIC – Leading with Hope

Followers need hope. The last century of scholarly works on leadership conveyed in three words. Whether you are following a teacher who is showing you how to solve a problem, your boss who is trying to win a company-saving contract, or your preacher who is working to strengthen your community, you need hope.

Shane J. Lopez, Ph.D., is the world's leading researcher on hope. His mission is to teach people that investing in their future pays off today. Dr. Lopez is a Gallup Senior Scientist and Research Director for the Clifton Strengths Institute. He is coauthor of the statistical reports for the Clifton StrengthsFinder and the Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer. He is also the author of "*Making Hope Happen: Create the Future You Want in Business and Life*", which details how hope can be learned and spread to others.



PRE-CONFERENCE SCOTT RAECKER & JEFF KLUEVER

TOPIC – Leadership: The Path to Civility

Presenters from The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University will deliver an interactive workshop that will provide tools and strategies to enhance community-based leadership with a focus on civility and community connectedness. The session will focus on assessing character competencies for community leaders, effective communication and collaboration, and how to map and achieve community goals. The Ray Center works with audiences from early childhood to corporate to community with the goal of improving civility and developing ethical leaders throughout the world.



Scott Raecker



Jeff Kluever

Scott Raecker & Jeff Kluever serve as Director and Assistant Director of Programs for the The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 16

11:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Registration Open	Hotel Lobby
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Pre-Conference – Leadership: The Path to Civility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenters: Scott Raecker, Director & Jeff Kluever, Assistant Director of Programs for The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University. 	Salon B
4:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.	Tour of downtown Des Moines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately following the pre-conference, there will be a bus or bike tour of downtown Des Moines. • Attendees should meet in the lobby of the Embassy Suites at 3:45 pm. Attire for the evening is casual. 	Hotel Lobby
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	The Des Moines Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join other ALP conference attendees and local leadership program alumni for a reception at The Hub Spot on the bank of the Des Moines River. 	
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Dinner — On Your Own <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership program alumni will recommend great restaurants that give you a taste of Des Moines’ culinary scene and keep you within walking distance of the reception and the hotel. 	
8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Night Views of the City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish your evening with a beverage and views of the Des Moines skyline from the exclusive Des Moines Embassy Club, the second-tallest building in Iowa. 	

Friday, June 17

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast — On Your Own	
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration Open	
7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	What is ALP? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join Jo Ellen Carson, ALP membership director, for a casual conversation about the ALP organization and what it does. 	Riverview Lobby
8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Opening Session — Welcome	Salon E
8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Learning Sessions	
	Session 1 — Fire Starters for Community Change: Effective Class Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenters: Lynda Schafer, Leadership Omaha, NE; Lynn Wood, Leadership Greater Madison, WI; Bryan Huggins, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, IA 	Salon F
	Session 2 — Securing Financial Support for your Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter: Paul J. Kirpes, TPG Consulting, IA 	Salon G
	Session 3 — Inspired Board Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter: Brad Little, Legacy Foundation, IA 	Salon H



Using your smart phone app, scan the QR Code and it will take you directly to the conference page on the ALP website for detailed information about the conference, workshops, session leaders and more!

SCHEDULE

Friday, June 17

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Break	Salon Foyer
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Learning Sessions	
	Session 4 — Calling Them Home: How to (re)Engage Alumni	Salon F
	• Presenters: Cynthia Knapek, Leadership Louisville Center, KY; Mick Hale, Leadership Lincoln, NE; Lee Denker, UNO, NE	
	Session 5 — Measuring Success: How to Evaluate Community Impact	Salon G
	• Presenter: Dr. Jean Eells, Resources Group, IA	
	Session 6 — Something Borrowed, Something New: Innovation in Your Organization	Salon H
	• Presenters: Amy Jennings, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, IA; Juliann Jankowski, Leadership South Bend/Mishawaka, IN	
11:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch and Awards Presentation	Salon E
	• Keynote Speaker: Shane Lopez, Ph.D	
	• Topic: Leading with Hope	
	• Luncheon sponsor - Kum & Go	
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Learning Sessions	
	Session 7 — How together, why separate? Diversity in Leadership Programs	Salon F
	• Presenter: Carlos Sanchez, Latino Talent Initiative, MI	
	Session 8 — The Powerful Role of Assessments in your Program	Salon G
	• Presenter: Alan Feirer, Group Dynamic, IA	
	Session 9 — Regional Collaboration: A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats	Salon H
	• Presenters: Angela Dethlefs-Trettin, Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, IA ; Lura Hammond, ALP; Mark Scheffler, Leadership Akron, OH	
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Break	Salon Foyer
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Plenary and Round Table Discussion Session	Salon E
	Share best practices and discuss action items for igniting change in our communities.	
4:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Wrap Up and Closing Remarks	

Thank you to all of the sponsors who helped make this conference possible!



AWARDS

The Preceptor Award

The Preceptor award is intended to recognize a program director (key person who coordinates and implements a leadership program) who has gone above and beyond, has achieved a new standard of excellence, and demonstrates civic and community engagement.



Juliann Jankowski

Juliann Jankowski has served as the Executive Director of **Leadership South Bend/Mishawaka (IN)** for 11 years. During her tenure, the program has grown and expanded at an amazing rate. Under her leadership, three programs have been added, for a total of five offerings. Juliann believes strongly in the power of collaboration and uses creativity to form collaborative partnerships as she brings new topics to leadership program days. Using her collaboration skills, she was an integral member of the steering committee that started the Michiana Diversity Leadership and Initiative. She has continued to serve as a program host and facilitator for this program over the past seven years. Juliann models servant leadership in her day-to-day life with staff, her board and throughout the community she serves. Holding to the tenets of servant leadership and its power to transform individuals, organizations and communities, she has served as a mentor to other leadership program directors in Indiana as well as high school students and young professionals.

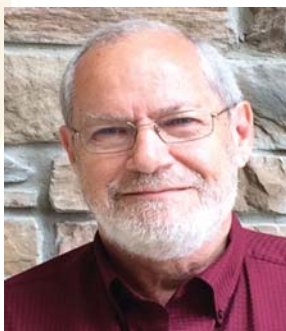
The Distinguished Leadership Award

The Distinguished Leadership Award (DLA) is designed to recognize exceptional community leadership graduates. Recipients are men and women who have made significant and notable contributions for the betterment of their communities.



Norma Rist

Norma Rist has been a champion of women during her entire career. A graduate of **Leadership Akron (OH)** Class 2, Rist runs her own CEO consulting firm and is a resident of Akron. As Chairman Emerita of ATHENA International, a worldwide organization that supports and honors women leaders, she created the first ATHENA membership program. This nonprofit group seeks to connect established women leaders and provide mentoring opportunities for emerging women leaders. In addition, Rist worked to bring to Akron a business advisory program called ATHENA Powerlink. Powerlink connects women-owned businesses with a board of professional advisors, resulting in significant improvement and growth for those businesses. Through Rist's encouragement, accomplishments and the entities she has built, many hundreds of local women have advanced their careers, grown businesses and become better leaders.



Gene Rife

Gene Rife is a graduate of Leadership Class 20 and was on the **Leadership Allen (TX)** steering committee for a number of years. Gene volunteered to coordinate and engage the program graduates in activities that would keep them connected and in promoting and serving the leadership program for Allen and Fairview. Officially, Gene served as the alumni chair for the steering committee for several years, transitioning into an ex-officio position on the committee and continuing his work with the alumni group. Gene was the impetus behind an effort to bring all the non-profits together at a service summit and to encourage community programs, volunteerism and interaction among groups for the betterment of our communities and each individual non-profit and service group. Gene has continued working at achieving this goal with a different emphasis each year. He is active in his local Lions Club and other community organizations including the Allen-Fairview Chamber of Commerce.

AWARDS

A graduate of **Leadership Plano (TX)** Class 23, **Lisa Raskin** has donated her time, resources, and expertise to serving the community. She is an active member of the National Charity League, a mother-daughter service organization; an active member of the Young Men's Service League, a mother-son service organization; and an active member of the Ursuline Academy Moms Club and the Jesuit Women's Auxiliary. Lisa has also served as the inaugural President of the Women's Auxiliary to Children's Medical Center Plano Legacy Chapter; President of the Plano Independent School District Education Foundation; and President of the Junior League of Collin County. She previously served as head of the fundraising committee for Plano Youth Leadership; a member of the Serenity High Advisory Board; and President of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Richardson/Plano Alumni Night group.



Lisa Raskin

Malynda Madzel, a graduate of **Leadership Howard County (MD)**, built a successful career as an entrepreneur in Howard County, Maryland with the knowledge that civic engagement is just as important as business success. Contributing her time and dedication to many professional organizations, she has been equally honored for serving the nonprofit community and connecting others to find their passions for community service. "Just as businesses owe it to their employees and investors to make a profit, business has an obligation to the communities that nurture them to give back time, talent and treasure," says Malynda. "When businesses lend their unique perspectives and expertise to their communities, those who rely on non-profit and government services reap the benefits of technology, management expertise and other vital necessities." Many young women have benefited from Malynda's counsel to help them navigate their careers and place in the community.



Malynda Madzel

Carol Dale-Joseph is being honored for her everlasting influence on many in the Findlay-Hancock Community, her longevity and passion for serving and her enthusiasm and energy put forth in anything she does. A former English teacher, Carol has always taken pride in teaching and mentoring others and remembers former students fondly. Carol, a 1990 graduate of **Hancock Leadership (OH)** went on to become the longest-serving Executive Director of the program from 1990 to 2000. Carol served many years and is a strong supporter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters (now Children's Mentoring Connection), Open Arms Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Services and American Red Cross Bloodmobile services.



Carol Dale-Joseph

The Legacy Club members are recognized for their support and belief in the mission and value of ALP and contribute annually above and beyond their regular membership investment.



WHY BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS?

ALP is a community of leadership programs for professionals who are doing great things in their communities. The Association strives to recognize excellence, foster innovation, share best practices, build networks with colleagues, and provide educational training and development to advance the effectiveness of community leadership programs and professionals.

JOIN ALP TODAY!

ALPLEADERS.ORG/JOIN

"Leadership Lynchburg was a small, chamber led program that began in 1977. When I started as program director in 2000, my first big risk was to pay to attend our national conference which was an unbudgeted expense. Sixteen years later, I can attribute the success of our program to the relationships formed and information gleaned from these conferences. We've gone from one program that averaged 15 applicants with a bare bones budget to four programs each with sustainable income. Additionally, we were honored with a preceptor award by ALP (formerly CLA) which would not have been possible without the resources of the ALP Association. If you want your program to remain status quo, do nothing. But, if you want to grow your revenue and expand the influence of your program in your region, then bite the bullet and invest in the ALP conferences!"

Christine Kennedy, Leadership Lynchburg, VA

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Opportunity to Attend Regional and National Conferences

- Connect with fellow leadership professionals
- Learn in educational workshops
- Engage with a cadre of national keynote presenters

Instant Access to Advanced Web Tools

- Searchable database directory of community leadership programs
- Monthly electronic newsletter
- Resource library
- Job posting opportunities
- Social media connections: LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook
- Interactive map listing member organizations on our website

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2016 Regional Conference

- Oct 27-28, Houston, TX

2017 National Conference

- Jun 22-24, Phoenix, AZ

SIGNATURE PROGRAMMING

National Conference

The national leadership conference is an opportunity for leadership professionals to come together to network, share ideas and best practices, refresh leadership skills, and attend educational workshops to enhance leadership programs. Also featured during the leadership conference is the recognition of the Distinguished Leader Awards, Preceptor Awards and Excellence in Innovation Awards.

Regional Conferences

ALP conducts several Regional Leadership Conferences that are designed to be affordable for connecting directors, staff, volunteers, and board members of local leadership groups for learning, sharing, and recharging.

Leadership Connection Tele-Classes

These monthly teleconference calls are **free** to members to share best practices and new trends as well as network among colleagues with other leadership program professionals.

eNews

Monthly electronic newsletter contains valuable content for leadership programs, keeping members informed of ALP Happenings. Each edition features an ALP member.

CONNECT WITH US!
LET YOUR FOLLOWERS SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!
#ALPLEADERS



*Original cover photo by: Brian Abeling



2016 Midwest Regional Conference

June 16–17, 2016 Des Moines, IA

Workshops

Regional Collaboration: A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats

Session Leader(s): Angela Dethlefs-Trettin, Lura Hammond & Mark Scheffler

- **Session Description:**

Regional Collaboration: A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats

The advancement and growth of a region benefits everyone. So, why don't we collaborate more often with nearby leadership programs? Hear examples of how leadership programs are partnering to create a stronger regional presence that benefits participants, graduates, and our communities.

The Powerful Role of Assessments in your Program

Session Leader(s): Alan Feirer

- **Session Description:**

Using leadership or strength assessments in your curriculum helps participants learn about themselves and work better in teams. How effective is your program in reaching these goals? Learn how to intentionally and successfully incorporate leadership assessments such as DISC, the Leadership Practices Inventory, and others into your curriculum.

Securing Financial Support for your Programs

Session Leader(s): Paul Kirpes

- **Session Description:**

From corporate sponsorship's to charging for services, learn how you can ensure you have the right mix of financial support for your organization and how you find people and entities to invest.

Measuring Success: How to Evaluate Community Impact

Session Leader(s): Dr. Jean Eels

- **Session Description:**

A successful leadership program demonstrates positive impact on the community, but how do you tackle evaluation when you're busy saving the world (or at least your community)? Dr. Eels will share simple ways to capture impact and communicate with funders, donors, alumni, and key community stakeholders. She approaches evaluation from the big picture with specifics to help you find data you can use.

Inspired Board Membership

Session Leader(s): Brad Little

- **Session Description:**

Are you a board member, volunteer or staff member of a leadership organization who is tasked with board development? Learn how to thoughtfully recruit, on-board, engage, and develop a succession strategy within your board and committees.

Fire Starters for Community Change: Effective Class Projects

Session Leader(s): Lynda Schafer, Lynn Wood, Bryan Huggins

- **Session Description:**

Group projects can address critical community needs while providing opportunities for teamwork, connection and learning. Hear how three leadership programs have achieved a unique blend of impact and learning, which resulted from thoughtful evolution of their project structures.

Calling Them Home: How to (re)Engage Alumni

Session Leader(s): Lee Denker, Cynthia Knapek, Mick Hale

- **Session Description:**

Are you looking for new strategies to engage alumni in your leadership organization? Learn how to creatively leverage the power of your alumni base to volunteer, donate, and continue serving as change agents for your organization and your community.

Something Borrowed, Something New: Innovation in Your Organization

Session Leader(s): Amy Jennings, Juliann Jankowski

- **Session Description:**

Leaders have a strong desire to continue evolving. How do you know when is the right time to expand your organization? Hear the steps three leadership organizations took to dream of possibilities, gather data, research best practices, pick a path, and successfully sustain new programs.

How together, why separate? Diversity in Leadership Programs

Session Leader(s): Carlos Sanchez

- **Session Description:**

How together, why separate? How do you ensure you have a representation from across your community in your programs? Learn best practices for recruiting diverse candidates. Hear from individuals who lead programs created for people of color, including why they were created and how they function separately, but collaboratively from other community leadership programs.

Plenary Session: Roundtable Topic Discussions

Plenary Session for Roundtable Topic Discussions: Best practices and current trend topics sharing session

- More opportunities to connect with your peers in two round table topic discussion. Want to know more? Have questions? Share with your peers in a facilitated discussion. You choose the topic!
-

Session Leaders:

Bryan Huggins

Learning Session(s): Fire Starters for Community Change

- Bryan serves as class project committee chair and board-chair elect on the Board of Governors for the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. His time has been focused on crafting an experiential learning journey utilizing a framework combining the Action Learning process, The Leadership Challenge's five practices of exemplary leaders, and Central Iowa's Capital Crossroads five-year community vision. Bryan's secondary effort focuses on ways to utilize the energy and power of the class project experience to better inform Central Iowa community members of the mission, vision, and goals of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. When not working as a volunteer for the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, Bryan is an architect at Shiffler Associates Architects where he is known for a mind open to multiple solutions, his eagerness to learn, and a hard to contain enthusiasm about the creative process (or just about anything else). He also serves as a board member for Polk County – Early Childhood Iowa, and a volunteer for Courage League Sports, Beaverdale Little League, and Community! Youth Concepts.

Carlos Sanchez**Learning Session(s): Diversity in Leadership Programs**

- Sanchez was most recently the executive director of the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Grand Rapids. In this position, he actively contributed to development of the Latino community while interacting with and mentoring Latino entrepreneurs, business owners and students. In addition, he developed unique and strong partnerships with Hispanic and non-Hispanic business organizations, and successfully implemented bilingual business counseling to entrepreneurs and business owners at the Chamber offices in partnership with the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center. Furthermore, Sanchez significantly increased event revenue and attendance, Chamber memberships and fundraising efforts, propelling it to a financially healthier organization.

Lee Denker**Learning Session(s): Calling them Home: How to (re)Engage Alumni**

- Lee Denker has spent his entire professional career advancing education. In 2001 Lee was named executive director of the Boise State University Alumni Association, in Boise, Idaho. His team launched a successful membership program and an innovative student alumni association, which was named the Top Student Program by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Lee has served as a member of the Board of Directors for two different districts for the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education – District 8 of the Pacific Northwest and District 6 in the Midwest. He recently completed his term on the District 6 Board after four years as Secretary, and now serves a three-year term on the International CASE Commission on Alumni Relations. In his community Lee is a champion for public education. In 2014 Lee was elected to a 4-year term on the Papillion La Vista Community Schools Board of Education, where he serves as Vice President. He also serves as a board member of the Schools Foundation and President of the Papio South High School Parent Booster Organization.

Angela Dethlefs-Trettin**Learning Session(s): A Regional Collaboration: A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats**

- Angie serves as the Chief Community Impact Officer at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines where she is responsible for leading, managing and evaluating the Community Foundation's grantmaking initiatives as well as the nonprofit capacity building program. Angie also coordinates the community leadership and social capital building initiatives of the Community Foundation, assists in identifying critical community needs and builds networks of diverse community stakeholders to address those needs. Angie joined the Community Foundation in 2012 and her prior professional experience includes serving as President of the Iowa Council of Foundations and Director of Outreach at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.

Dr. Jean Eells**Learning Session(s): Measuring Success**

- Jean brings to evaluation work a strong set of knowledge, skills, and experiences related to non-profit evaluation. She is a professional, with a Ph. D in Agricultural Education from Iowa State University. Her main areas of expertise include program evaluation, education and communications, project management, and group facilitation. Through her business, E Resources Group, Jean uses her expertise to help groups learn and succeed by helping them implement evaluations and learn from the data. In 2007, Jean received the Excellence in Interpretation Award from the National Association for Interpretation – Region V for her work in evaluation.

Alan Feirer**Learning Session(s): The Powerful Role of Assessments in your Program**

- Alan Feirer is a leadership trainer, Everything DiSC® Authorized Partner, Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team™ Authorized Partner, and organizational development consultant. For the last 16 years, he has done business as Group Dynamic, helping people embrace challenging work, and have less stress while getting more done. Alan works with managers, directors, leadership teams, staffs, and team members through leadership training, team building, and communication training. Mr. Feirer lives in Winterset, Iowa, with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Mara. He holds membership in many professional organizations, including Optimists, Madison County Area Chamber of Commerce, the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, and the Association for Talent Development (previous Central Iowa chapter President). Feirer's other interests include competitive Scrabble, running, travel, dining, and anything Disney.

Mick Hale**Learning Session(s): Calling them Home: How to (re)Engage Alumni**

- Mick became the Executive Director of Leadership Lincoln (Lincoln, NE.) in May of 2015. As only the third executive leader since Leadership Lincoln began in 1985, he has continued to grow the agency's mission of community leadership and engagement. Prior to joining the agency, he was the Director of Education at The Durham Museum in Omaha. He provided leadership in growing attendance and financial support for the museum as well as leading development of award-winning curriculum, summer camps, and professional development for educators. He has been a facilitator with Leadership Omaha/Omaha Executive Institute and is a Lincoln Executive Series XXVII alum. Mick started his professional career as a K-12 educator and coach working in public and private schools in the Omaha, Nebraska area. He and his wife Lisa, enjoying spending time with their three adult children and being active in the community.

Lura Hammond**Learning Session(s): Regional Collaboration: A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats**

- Lura is the part time Executive Director for the Association of Leadership Programs. Her love for leadership programs began during her time as a class member in Leadership Garland, TX. She then formed Leadership Mesquite (TX), where she was the Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce and later graduated from another community leadership program, Leadership Metrocrest and a regional program, Leadership North Texas. In addition to her work with ALP, Lura and her husband are partners in their company, Leadership on the Move where they provide team development through experiential education. Together they work with over 50 community leadership programs in various capacities. They have also formed nine leadership programs in Texas. In addition, she helped to organize and is past president of the Association of Texas Leadership Programs. Lura is a founding member of the Metroplex Leadership Network.

Amy Jennings**Learning Session(s): Innovation in Your Organization**

- Amy Jennings is the executive director of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. She works with participants, alumni, and community members not only to achieve the organization's goals of building strong community leaders, but also to help people see themselves as partners for community change. Amy spent 13 years using her degree in Community Health Education from Iowa State University to help companies change their cultures and support employee well-being. In 2010, she received her master's degree in Adult Learning and Organizational Performance with an emphasis in Leadership from Drake University. Amy was the inaugural recipient of the Young Professionals Connection's Young Professional of the Year Award, an award which bears her name, and she was a Des Moines Business Record Forty Under 40 honoree in 2007. She is an alumnus of Leadership Iowa, as well as the organization she leads, the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. Amy has served on the boards of the Young Professionals Connection and Young Professionals of Iowa, the YMCA Healthy Living Center, American Red Cross – Central Iowa Chapter, and Center on Sustainable Communities.

Paul J. Kirpes**Learning Session(s): Securing Financial Resources for your Programs**

- Paul J. Kirpes is a proven entrepreneur, executive, strategist, and trusted adviser to owners, executives and leaders. Paul has founded or co-founded more than 15 entities and has catalyzed and coached scores of businesses to achieve record results. Paul has co-founded or advised more than ten Leader and Leadership Development programs -- locally to internationally including regarding program design, revenue, sponsorship and other funding strategies. Paul is deeply interested in helping people and businesses enhance the world and has demonstrated that values-driven leadership is key to transform communities, businesses, nations, and beyond. Business and civic leaders seek Paul's wisdom and ability to engage others to achieve what looks difficult or even impossible. He has been a guest lecturer for graduate and undergraduate classes at colleges & universities on topics of success including leadership, philanthropy, deal making, negotiation, value re-designed, change management, organization design, entrepreneurship, funding, business development, social entrepreneurship, and more. He is co-author of Raising Money for Mighty Missions, a compendium of practical, proven strategies and methods to help novices and experts alike achieve resource-development and fund-raising results.

Cynthia Knappek**Learning Session(s): Calling them Home: How to (re)Engage Alumni**

- In 2012, Cynthia was named President of the Leadership Louisville Center. The Center has been recognized as a national best practice in community leadership development by the Center for Creative Leadership. Before joining Leadership Louisville, Cynthia worked for Mayor Jerry Abramson as Executive Director of Brightside, a Keep America Beautiful affiliate. Under Cynthia's leadership Brightside won two Center for Nonprofit Excellence Pyramid Awards and was a National President's Circle Award winner with Keep America Beautiful. Cynthia was named Business First's Top 40 Leaders Under 40 in 2001 and received the Citizen Laureate award in 2013 from the Younger Women's Club. In 2014 she was included in Louisville Magazine's 'Power 50' influential leaders. Cynthia was a founding member and the first President of the Young Professionals Association of Louisville (YPAL). She has a master's degree from the University of Louisville as well as several certifications in leadership training and organizational development.

Brad Little**Learning Session(s): Inspired Board Membership**

- Brad has been the President and CEO of the Legacy Foundation since December 2010. He comes to Ottumwa from Cicero, Indiana where he was President of the Legacy Fund, a \$40 million community foundation serving Hamilton County, Indiana. Previously, he was the Executive Director of the Carmel Dads' Club, a not-for-profit youth sports organization. Prior to that, he held numerous positions within Lambda Chi Alpha International Fraternity including Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Finance and Insurance. Brad is currently a board member and treasurer of the Iowa Council of Foundations; the honorary chairman of Job Corps' Community Relations Council; an advisory board member of the Ottumwa Leadership Academy; a board member of the Rotary Club of Ottumwa; and a former member of the Ottumwa School District Community Advisory Committee. He is a graduate, former board member and past president of the Hamilton County (Indiana) Leadership Academy.

Mark Scheffler**Learning Session(s): Regional Collaboration: A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats**

- Mark Scheffler became the Executive Director of Leadership Akron in 2005. During his tenure, Scheffler has teamed with Leadership Akron's board, staff, and alumni to strengthen its flagship program and create new programs and partnerships throughout the "Continuum of Leadership." In recent years Leadership Akron has launched a range of new efforts:
 - The insight:AKRON program for executives new to the area
 - A strategic collaboration with Torchbearers to serve young leaders
 - Leadership Akron N.E.X.T. (New Endeavors for eXperienced Talent) for senior leaders

Employer-based Community Leadership Institutes, pioneered in collaboration with Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Before joining Leadership Akron, Mark was on staff at Summit Education Initiative. A graduate of Grove City College, he received a Masters of Public Administration from The Ohio State University. He is a board member of the Association of Leadership Professionals, a national organization for groups like Leadership Akron. He also serves on the boards of the Akron Roundtable and United Way of Summit County. Mark was a charter honoree of the Greater Akron Chamber's 30 for the Future awards, and now serves on the selection committee. In 2010 he received the Preceptor Award from the Association of Leadership Professionals for excellence in the directorship of a community leadership organization.

Lynda Shaffer**Learning Session(s): Fire Starters for Community Change**

- Lynda Shafer has been the director of Leadership Omaha since April of 1999. A program of the Greater Omaha Chamber, Leadership Omaha develops effective leaders who will strengthen and transform the community. In addition to Leadership Omaha, Lynda directs the Omaha Executive Institute and works with the Leadership Omaha Alumni Association. An active community trustee, Lynda has served on numerous boards, including the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, the Citizen Advisory Review Committee for the City of La Vista and the Butler-Gast YMCA. Lynda is an ordained elder and deacon at Faith Presbyterian Church in La Vista and secretary of the Agape Mission Trust board. Lynda was named as a 2009 honoree at the WCA's Annual Tribute to Women. She was a graduate of Leadership Nebraska Class 2.

Lynn Wood**Learning Session(s): Fire Starters for Community Change**

- Lynn Wood is Vice President at Wood Communications Group (WCG), a strategic communications and market research consultancy. Lynn is also the director of Leadership Greater Madison and Leadership Greater Madison-Youth; two prestigious civic leadership training programs run in partnership with the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce. Prior to joining WCG, Lynn was a Deputy-Sergeant-at-Arms for the Wisconsin State Senate and owned a successful event planning company. Lynn is an active community participant and has held board positions for several local organizations including the Junior League of Madison, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and the Madison Club.