Leadership
Kalamazoo
PLAYBOOK 2021
POWERED BY
southwest michigan first
THE GREATEST FORCE FOR CHANGE IS A JOB
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY
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OVERVIEW

Southwest Michigan First believes the ultimate catalyst for our region’s growth is a transformational strategy to develop human capital. We must identify, engage and empower leaders with the kind of business acumen, strategic agility and civic mindset needed to ensure our region’s shared prosperity.

As a part of our robust talent development strategy, we offer **LEADERSHIP KALAMAZOO**. For more than 30 years, **LEADERSHIP KALAMAZOO** has been the go-to leadership development resource in the region, equipping a diverse cohort of emerging leaders with 21st-century leadership skills while helping them to gain a deeper understanding of our community and our region.

THE FORMULA IS SIMPLE

**LEADERSHIP KALAMAZOO** follows the KNOW | GROW | GO model, providing a platform for emerging leaders to:

| KNOW | Expand their knowledge of self, community and leadership best practices. |
| GROW | Develop an intentional plan for growth. |
| GO | Put their skills into action with an individualized “go strategy” at the conclusion of the program. |

**LEADERSHIP KALAMAZOO** convenes monthly, with sessions intended to develop the fundamental behaviors, mindsets and knowledge base that successful leaders possess. New in 2021, **LEADERSHIP KALAMAZOO** will be offered using a hybrid delivery method, including both virtual and small group in-person sessions. The program includes an exclusive opportunity to attend Southwest Michigan First’s Catalyst University.

In addition, participants will gain access to unique, hands-on experiences with community-based organizations. We bring together dynamic professionals, cutting-edge faculty and a rigorous curriculum to accelerate leader development and create a truly transformational learning experience.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The calendar for **LEADERSHIP KALAMAZOO** 2021 is like none other. New features and curated community experiences will allow the group to elevate their leadership, build their network and deepen their roots in the social fabric of our region. The program consists of **Learning Sessions** and **Community Engagement Experiences**.

- **Learning Sessions** | These sessions include the full group, diving into leadership topics and best practices together. They are virtual, engaging and include a lineup of guest experts.

- **Community Engagement Experiences** | These sessions include a full-group, virtual prep session that is later followed by a community tour in small groups throughout the month. Small groups then join together for a dine and discuss session to share a meal together and unpack their tour experience with community leaders and each other, exploring today’s most relevant issues through conversations that only a gathering of thoughtful guests could foster.
**2021 CALENDAR**

**JANUARY**

Application Launches Online  
Wednesday, January 13

One-on-One Applicant Interviews  
To be scheduled with Gretchen on a rolling basis

**FEBRUARY**

Final Applications Due  
Friday, February 26

One-on-One Applicant Interviews  
To be scheduled with Gretchen on a rolling basis

**MARCH**

Orientation Kick Off  
Tuesday, March 16  
| Virtual  
9:00 am - 10:00 am

Retreat  
Monday, March 22 + Tuesday, March 23  
| Virtual  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm each day

**INVESTMENT**

$1,800 per person  
Scholarships available

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**2021 SESSION DATES COMING SOON!**

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**PROGRAM CONTACT**

Gretchen Slenk | director  
gslenk@southwestmichiganfirst.com  
269.303.5493

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**2021 Calendar**

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