



Developing Leaders Today to Shape our Tomorrow

BEGINNING YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Thank you for your interest in Leadership Skagit (LS). The purpose of LS is to develop informed, connected, and committed community leaders. The program is designed to assist participants in acquiring a broad understanding of the complex issues facing Skagit County and its communities and building relationships that will facilitate collaborative efforts to embrace opportunities and resolve challenges.

The Founding Partners of the program are: The Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC), Skagit Valley College, and Washington State University Extension. LS is a program of the EDASC Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Since its inception in 2004, five hundred participants have completed the program.

CURRICULUM

The 9-month program begins in September and ends in June. The class meets monthly for Challenge Days that focus on specific topics including: Economic Vitality, Community Services and Stewardship, Arts and Culture, Building a Healthy Community, and Law and Justice. Each day is experience-based and includes meetings with local leaders and subject matter experts, site visits, and individual and group activities. Class members are expected to attend all sessions. Participants will also participate fully in their team project work. The program's schedule of dates is listed on the application. If you are unable to commit to this schedule, please consider applying in the future. Participants who successfully complete the program will earn 17 documented academic credits in leadership from Skagit Valley College.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

LS applicants are highly motivated, committed to being involved in the community, and interested in continuing their leadership journey. Applicants must live or work in Skagit County. **Potential participants are encouraged to contact Kathryn Bennett, Director, at 360.395.8727 or kathryn@skagit.org to discuss their interest in the program prior to applying.**

SELECTION CRITERIA

The participants will be selected based on criteria including: leadership in chosen field and/or volunteer activities, community involvement, dedicated interest in lifelong learning and improving personal leadership skills, and commitment to effecting positive change in Skagit County. Because diversity is a core value of LS, participants will reflect a diversity of age, race, employment, ethnic, professional and geographic backgrounds. LS does not discriminate against applicants and participants on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, or occupation. All applications are handled in confidence.

POST-GRADUATE COMMITMENT TO SKAGIT COUNTY

Graduation from LS signifies the beginning of an ongoing opportunity as a member of the LS graduate network. LS's Alumni group, headed by a committee of graduates, hosts networking events, educational programs and forums, and provides community service opportunities to facilitate continuing education and network-building among our alumni. To serve as a true "architect" of constructive community change and to further ensure the long-term success of the region, you are encouraged to serve on committees, boards and task forces, as well as participate in organizations throughout the region.