



CONTACT

Katrena King
Executive Director, Leadership Institute of Acadiana
337-408-3662 or katrena@leadacadiana.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leadership Lafayette Class XXXVI Announced

The next generation of rising and established leaders chosen for flagship program

The Leadership Institute of Acadiana (LIA) today announced the thirty-four members of Leadership Lafayette Class XXXVI. The program focuses on topics such as city and state government, economic development, education, arts and culture, and social services. Graduates leave with first-hand knowledge of the issues facing our region and the potential for positive civic engagement.

“Class XXXVI is full of leaders who each have a story to tell. While the greater Lafayette area continues to grow, lifting a new generation of leaders will help refine our community into the most impactful version of itself,” stated Katrena King, LIA Executive Director. “In 2023, these class members will learn more about themselves, one another, and the coming challenges and successes for our area.”

Class participants represent a cross-section of the community’s business, civic, and non-profit sectors and will be moderated by Program Co-Chairs Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Ph.D. – Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of History, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Class XXXIV) and Corey McCoy – CEO, Kitchen on Klinton (Class XXXV).

Members of the 2023 class include:

Blake C. Adams, MBA, CPFA - Darnall Sikes Wealth Partners

Badar Al-Hamdani - Biacreates Production LLC

Allison Billeaud - Tides Medical

Kabrina S. Bland, MSNPA - Beacon Community Connections

Brent P. Broussard - The Broussard Enterprise Group, LLC

Brandi Ortiz Comeaux - Sans Paquet

Aleisha Johnson Cook, MBA-HCA - Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center

Clare Cook, MFA - Basin Arts

Natasha K. Curley - Second Harvest Food Bank of Acadiana

Cheryl Devall - KRVS Public Media

Karen C. Dugas - Above the Limit, LLC

Taylor Farris, MSW, LCSW, C-DBT - Voitier Group, LLC - Contracted to Lafayette Parish Correctional Center

Bess Derby Foret - Lafayette Consolidated Government

Nicole Ryane Johnson - CPR 2 GEAUX

Nicole S. Jones - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Alee Khambounleuang - LHC Group, Inc.

Stephanie Larriviere Kizziar - Vitalant

Kate Bailey Labue - Oliva Gibbs LLP

Ivan Ledet - Jubilee Nation Christian Ministries

Jessica Leger, Ph.D. - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Christy McDonald Lenahan, DNP, FNP-BC, ENP-C, CNE - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Kimberly Little McCaffrey, DVM - A Little Veterinary Relief

Peyton Rose Michelle - Louisiana Trans Advocates

Shyra L. Moran - Progressive Insurance

Benjamin Eugene Powers - Developing Lafayette

Eli Ramirez - Cornerstone Financial Group

Ross Roubion - Kean Miller

Diogo Pitta Ferraz Tavares - Northwestern Mutual

Kade Turner - CASA of SoLA

Shatamia Webb - Baby Catcher Birth Center

Charliese Elisah West - Lafayette Consolidated Government

Diamond Williams - Lafayette Habitat for Humanity

Michael Zeek - The Acadiana Symphony and Conservatory of Music

Monica Moody Zuschlag - Junior League of Lafayette

The ten-month program begins with a two-day retreat in February. From March - November, the class devotes an entire day each month to discussion with community and business leaders, trips throughout the community, and engaging exercises pertinent to the program topics.

Leadership Lafayette was established in 1987 to prepare a diverse group of professionals for leadership positions in the community. The program lays the groundwork for a well-rounded understanding of the community, sparks civic involvement, and exposes participants to a variety of leaders, new opportunities, and leadership skills.

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LIA is a non-profit dedicated to the mission of convening, building, and activating leaders. Founded as an executive leadership program to provide civic and professional leaders with an in-depth view of their community, LIA is continuously evaluating new opportunities to improve the leadership capacity throughout Acadiana.

For more information, contact Katrena King at 337-408-3662 or katrena@leadacadiana.org