



## **CONTACT**

Katrena King  
Executive Director, Leadership Institute of Acadiana  
337-408-3662 or [katrena@leadacadiana.org](mailto:katrena@leadacadiana.org)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

### **Leadership Institute of Acadiana Announces its 38<sup>th</sup> Leadership Lafayette Cohort** Join LIA for its Annual Meeting to celebrate the new class and look back on 2024

---

LAFAYETTE, LA – January 13, 2025 – The Leadership Institute of Acadiana (LIA) has announced its Leadership Lafayette cohort for 2025, culminating in its 38<sup>th</sup> year of the program. This group of 36 rising and established leaders were selected from unique backgrounds in the business, civic, education and non-profit sectors. These individuals will be guided on their leadership journey with the assistance of two Program Co-Chairs: Billy Hobbs, CEO of BWPR, and Torilyn Williams, BSA Manager of Home Bank, both members of Leadership Lafayette Class XXXVII.

The 2025 class of Leadership Lafayette, Class XXXVIII, consists of a group of individuals that are seeking to better the Lafayette community and beyond.

This year's cohort includes:

Andrea Amos - Parc De Oaks  
Jeremy Anderson - CGI Federal  
Faryal Atif - University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Amber D. Bessard - Strictly Fitness | Train With Amber Fitness  
Tyrone Bufkin - LBA Hospitality  
Eboney Breaux - Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana  
Dr. Breannie Charles - Avita Pharmacy  
Nina Charles - Nina Creole  
Michael Eble - UL Lafayette College of the Arts  
Grace Farnell - CGI  
Corrie Gallien - Gallien Law  
Alan Haney - 15th Judicial District Attorney's Office  
Anjenette Holmes, Ph.D. - United Way of Acadiana  
Mary-Katherine Hooper - Unitech Training Academy  
Ashley Hutchins - Thrive Mental Health LLC  
Lindsey Jenneman - Lemme Paint Dat LLC

Blake Johnson II - Blake Johnson II State Farm  
Frank Kolwe - T. Baker Smith  
Dr. Melissa Lewis - University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Lore Linton - Children's Museum of Acadiana  
My'Run Londo - Goldie Locks Realty  
Alicia Manning, RN, BSN - Grace Home Health  
Mary Allie McGoffin - Moncus Park  
Lauren Neumeyer-LaFleur, LMSW - Safe Havynn Education Center  
Betsy Richard - Betsy Richard Consulting  
Jaelyn S. Richard, MPA - Our Lady of Lourdes Health  
Tim Rinaldi - Miles Perret Cancer Services  
Tammie Robertson - Lafayette Consolidated Government  
Captain Sallie Spears - Lafayette City Marshal's Office  
Kayla Stansbury - Catholic Charities of Acadiana  
Grayson Stepanek, MBA - Goodwill Acadiana  
Danielle Tassin - Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission  
Seth Thomas - Ryan Gootee General Contractors  
Dianne Trim - Tides Medical  
Brooke G. Voorhies - Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center  
Charese Williams, MBA - Second Harvest Food Bank Feeding South Louisiana

LIA also invites you to attend its **Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel**, where Class XXXVIII will be highlighted and 2024 organizational accomplishments will be celebrated.

Leadership Lafayette, established in 1987, is dedicated to equipping participants with the skills and knowledge required to excel in leadership roles throughout the community and beyond. The program serves as a platform for developing a thorough understanding of the challenges, successes, and opportunities that continue to shape the region. By exposing the cohort to differing leadership styles, civic engagement opportunities, and access to community leaders, graduates will walk away knowing much more about the community than when they started.

"In 2025, Class XXXVIII will be presented with the opportunity to learn and grow together, while challenging their deep-seated understandings of the way the Lafayette community ebbs and flows," shared Katrena King, Executive Director of LIA. "It is through those moments of reflection and dialogue where the spark of ideas are born and the cohort begins to look at their shared world differently."

The program curriculum of Leadership Lafayette addresses vital topics including education, local and state government, economic development, arts and culture, and community needs. Graduates emerge

from the program equipped with firsthand insights into the region's challenges and the potential for meaningful civic involvement.

###

*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](mailto:katrena@leadacadiana.org)