

Unlock Your Leadership Potential!



Mission:

To inspire and prepare future community leaders across Buchanan County.

Vision:

To develop the skills of individuals in our communities through civic engagement, quality of life, workforce, and housing.

BECOME A COMMUNITY LEADER:

As a participant, you will be equipped not only with leadership skills but also with a profound understanding of various services, opportunities, and stakeholders in Buchanan County. This includes working on real-world projects that have a direct impact on our community, creating a better future for all of us.

Why Choose the LEAD Buchanan Program?

LEAD Buchanan offers a unique opportunity to connect with various organizations in the county.

Leadership Development

Build comprehensive leadership skills with a strong focus on community-based leadership and civic engagement.



Professional Networking

Connect with peers, emerging leaders, and established professionals from a wide range of industries.



Community Engagement

Engage directly with local clubs, groups, and organizations to better understand their impact and collaboration opportunities.



Expert Presenters

Learn from exceptional presenters and facilitators who are leaders in the field of leadership and organizational development.



Insider Access

Gain exclusive insights and behind-the-scenes experiences with organizations and initiatives across the county.



About LEAD Buchanan's Speakers:

As we prepare for the 2026 program, LEAD Buchanan is pleased to introduce a few of the remarkable speakers who will be joining us.

Kent Stock is a teacher, coach, principal, banker, and motivational speaker. He is best known for leading the Norway baseball team through their legendary final season, depicted in the film *The Final Season*. Kent grew up in Ankeny, Iowa, excelled in baseball at Waldorf and Luther Colleges, and spent 23 years in teaching and coaching. He will be joining us for our kickoff session on March 10.

We're also excited to welcome Karen Schumacher. She is a passionate leadership coach, speaker, and community advocate who brings real-world experience as a business owner, executive, volunteer, and working mom. Since founding her company in 2013, she has partnered with more than 100 organizations nationwide, empowering thousands of individuals and teams to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

Additionally, we're pleased to welcome back several familiar favorites including Dr. Celina Peerman, known for her practical, research-driven leadership training, and Marcie Van Note, who creates interactive, practical, and inclusive learning experiences that inspire confidence and lasting change.

We are excited to welcome eight program speakers to Buchanan County for LEAD Buchanan in 2026.

Training Topics:

- Storytelling for Impact: How to inspire, influence, and lead.
- Real Colors: Understanding yourself and others.
- Ethics and Integrity in Leadership
- Leading with Empathy: Emotional intelligence in action.
- Public Speaking with Confidence
- Strengths-Based Leadership: Leveraging what you do best.
- Time Management for Community Leaders
- Personal Branding for Public Leaders

Program Themes:

The 2026 program will explore leadership within key areas including agriculture, education, tourism, and public service.

“The 2025 LEAD Buchanan Classes challenged me to step outside my comfort zone. I discovered parts of Buchanan County I had never visited, built connections with people I might not have met otherwise, and learned practical strategies to grow as a leader.”

Pete Gaumer

“The LEAD Buchanan Academy has taken me out of my comfort zone in so many ways and doing the volunteer opportunity was one of the biggest but at the same time it has been great to reconnect with my hometown and hopefully be able to give back and provide more opportunities than we have in the past.”

Sarah Boyd

SCHEDULE



 The 2026 LEAD Buchanan program will take place on select Tuesdays between March and July, from noon to 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA	PRESENTER	TRAINING TOPIC
March 10 Pipestone, Independence	Kent Stock	Storytelling for Impact: How to Inspire, Influence, and Lead
March 24 Winthrop City Hall	Karen Schumacher	Real Colors: Understanding Yourself and Others
April 7 Fontana Nature Center	Dan Cohen	Ethics and Integrity in Leadership *Tour of Fontana
April 21 Jesup City Hall	Marcie Van Note	Leading with Empathy: Emotional Intelligence in Action *Education Panel
May 5 Heartland Acres	Joseph VanderStel	Public Speaking with Confidence
May 19 Cedar Rock State Park	Celina Peerman	Strengths-Based Leadership: Leveraging What You Do Best *Tour of Cedar Rock
June 2 Buchanan County Health Center	Sandra Flikkama	Time Management for Community Leaders
June 16 Emergency Operations Center, Independence	Marcie Van Note	Personal Branding for Public Leaders *Public Service Panel
July 29 Rowley City Hall	Graduation!	



LEAD BUCHANAN

APPLICATION

Full Name:

Job Title/
Organization Title:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Dietary
Restrictions:

Years in Buchanan County:

Application Materials & Deadline: All application materials must be submitted no later than January 31.

Please email the following items to director@growbuchanan.com:

- Completed LEAD Buchanan application
- Applicant bio (submitted as a separate document)

Applicant Bio Requirements: Your bio should provide an overview of who you are and what you hope to gain from participating in LEAD Buchanan. It may include:

- Educational background
- Professional experience
- Current civic, business, or professional involvement
- Personal goals related to leadership development and community engagement

Program Fee

- Tuition: \$250
- Tuition includes all program materials, assessments, meals, refreshments, and other program related expenses.
- Invoices will be issued upon acceptance into the LEAD Buchanan program.

Applicant Agreement

By submitting this application, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

- I will attend at least six of the eight sessions.
- I will actively participate in class projects.
- I will volunteer at two local events.
- I understand and accept the time and financial commitment required to participate in LEAD Buchanan.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____