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Our sponsors demonstrate leadership and a commitment to DeKalb County's success through support of Leadership DeKalb. Some of our leading sponsors include:

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Leadership DeKalb Graduates include:

- Georgia's Attorney General
- Georgia's Small Business Person of the Year
- DeKalb's Sheriff, District Attorney & Police Chief
- Several DeKalb mayors/ city and county commissioners
- Numerous judges and other justice officials
- Elected state representatives and senators
- Educators including administrators in higher education, secondary and elementary schools & school board elected officials
- Corporate managers and nonprofit senior management
- Accountants, architects, attorneys & other professionals
- Health care officials and medical staff
- Religious leaders
- Real estate and economic developers
- Entrepreneurs and small business owners
- Community advocates & volunteer leaders

In recognition of Leadership DeKalb's devotion to leadership training, the organization received DeKalb County's Community Relations Commission's Service Award in 2002. Noted contributions included the organization's coordination of access to key government, judicial, business, civic and education leaders; encouragement of diversity; and conduction of a youth leadership program encouraging student involvement in community and civic activities.

Leadership DeKalb is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Leadership DeKalb began as a program of the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce in 1986 and in 1994 became an independent organization.



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Leadership DeKalb BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Developing
and
Connecting
DeKalb's
Leaders
Since
1986**

Leadership DeKalb is an instrument of positive change in DeKalb County. Since the program's beginning in 1986, Leadership DeKalb has built a committed group of leaders who are well informed about DeKalb County and the issues that we face. Many CEOs of top public and private companies, as well as a large number of DeKalb's elected officials, educators, judges, entrepreneurs, volunteers and nonprofit leaders are graduates.

Leadership DeKalb develops an ethnically and culturally diverse group of enlightened leaders for DeKalb County through:

- 1. Training:** During the Leadership DeKalb 10-month program, class members are introduced to a wide range of issues facing DeKalb County, begin networking across the DeKalb community and build their leadership skills.
- 2. Membership:** After graduation from the training program, class members join more than 750 other Leadership DeKalb graduates for continued leadership development, networking and service as community trustees for DeKalb County.

Leadership DeKalb equips established and emerging leaders with a unique understanding of the issues facing DeKalb County, and—because of the community-wide connections that they develop during the program—a unique opportunity to have a positive impact on those issues. Graduates are personally and professionally enriched by the Leadership DeKalb experience.



PARTICIPANTS

- Develop their abilities as leaders
- Gain a broader understanding of the issues facing their community
- Join a community-wide network of leaders

EMPLOYERS & SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

- Increase the visibility and involvement of their organizations in the community
- Benefit from the enhanced leadership skills, broadened perspective, and network of contacts developed by the participant
- Can help create a better community environment in which to operate

DEKALB COUNTY

- Benefits from the Leadership DeKalb graduates' commitment to serving as community trustees, their increased involvement in the community and their increased effectiveness as leaders

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 10-MONTH PROGRAM

- Orientation
- Overnight opening and closing retreats (fall and spring)
- Sessions on DeKalb's government; justice, health, and education systems; diversity; quality of life; and much more
- Noted speakers who shed light on the pressing issues facing the county and region
- Riding a shift with a DeKalb police officer or observing our 911 emergency system
- Ongoing small discussion groups

REQUIREMENTS

- Nominee should be an emerging or established leader
- Must live or work in DeKalb County
- Must have demonstrated a commitment to community service

A committee of Leadership DeKalb graduates selects about 45 people each year to represent all aspects of the DeKalb community: business, nonprofit organizations, education, the arts, government, religion, community volunteers from DeKalb's varied ethnic, cultural and racial groups. To apply, go to www.leadershipdekalb.org.

"I can say without hesitation that Leadership DeKalb prepared me for the rigors of public life better than any other program in Georgia. The opportunity to watch government up close and truly learn the mission of service providers has made me a better Attorney General."



Thurbert E. Baker, Attorney General of Georgia



"Leadership DeKalb was a mind-stretching experience. It helped me see possibilities I had never considered prior to the regular interaction with 37 civic and business leaders. The programs were outstanding and provided an opportunity to learn more about DeKalb County and about leadership. It gave me the confidence to leave a company that I'd worked with for 28 years and seek a new career opportunity, which eventually led to the establishment of Decatur First Bank."

Judy Turner, President, Decatur First Bank

"My Leadership DeKalb experience was probably the pivotal event that really motivated me to become more involved in the community, both in DeKalb and in Atlanta. The most valuable thing that I took from the program was knowing that I really could make a difference in whatever area I choose. And that connection continues. If I have a question or problem — government, community, business, civic—there is most likely a Leadership DeKalb alumnus I can contact for help and information."



Alex Wan, President, Optima, Inc.



"Leadership DeKalb's primary objective of connecting people and communities has allowed me the opportunity to develop valuable business and personal relationships that would normally take years to establish. Graduates of Leadership DeKalb have the competitive edge needed to grow strong organizations and leave a lasting impact on the communities they serve. I believe Leadership DeKalb represents the conscience of DeKalb County."

Delores Crowell, Regional Manager, BellSouth

Membership Benefits

Our mission is to identify, develop and support leaders who exemplify committed service to positively impact the greater community.

The value of participation in Leadership DeKalb extends to members beyond their graduation from the program. As alumni, they are exposed to a myriad of activities connecting members with newsmakers and experts dealing with important issues of the day. The power of the Leadership DeKalb network allows graduates to establish relationships with decision makers throughout the metro region, including leading figures in local and state government. In addition, active members may identify and nominate others who would benefit from our leadership development program.

Activities available to members include:

- Board Development Seminars
- Collaborative Community Programs
- Community Service Projects
- Eggs & Issues Breakfasts
- Leadership Development Training
- Member Networking Activities
- Political Forums
- Rush Hour Happy Hour

Our active communication effort links members to issues, events and leadership opportunities in the community. Members receive monthly newsletters that highlight member accomplishments and noteworthy events, as well as our annual Membership Directory.

Youth Leadership DeKalb

In addition, our Youth Leadership DeKalb program promotes the development of skills and knowledge that enable high school students to become the leaders of tomorrow. Through monthly classes and an opening retreat, participants develop a sense of community and discover the impact of teamwork upon their peers, their school, DeKalb County and the metro Atlanta region. Classes include training on diversity, team building, leadership skills and personal development, including stress management and conflict resolution.