Leadership Columbia-Greene Program 2026 - 2027

Confidential Application

OUR MISSION: Our mission is to cultivate a diverse network of visionary leaders who are committed to driving economic development, fostering personal growth, and strengthening civic engagement, empowering them to take bold, impactful action that shapes the future of Columbia and Greene Counties.

CRITERIA: For the 2026–27 program year, Leadership Columbia-Greene will welcome a cohort of up to 20 diverse, high-potential individuals.

Ideal candidates:

- Are passionate about making a lasting impact in their workplace and in the Columbia–Greene community.
- Are eager to grow personally and professionally through hands-on learning, collaboration, and civic engagement.
- Are committed to fully participating in all program sessions and graduation.
- Live or work in Columbia County or Greene County.

INSTRUCTIONS: The application process includes steps outlined below and a brief interview. All applications are reviewed competitively. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

To apply, **submit the following**:

1. A completed and signed application form (including employer signature).
2. A one-page professional résumé, including your highest level of education.
3. A list of civic, professional, or community organizations you are or have been involved with, including any leadership roles.
4. Two professional references (name, relationship, and phone number) who can speak to your leadership potential.

Completed applications must be emailed, mailed or delivered to your Chamber of Commerce by 5 PM on **Friday, August 14, 2026.**

Each applicant will be interviewed by the Leadership Columbia-Greene Committee and will be notified of acceptance by mid-September 2026.

APPLICANT/PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full, Legal Name _____

Preferred Name _____

Home Address _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Business Name _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____

Business E-mail _____

Select Preferred Method of Contact for future Notifications/Correspondence:

Mail to ☐ Home Address ☐ Business Address

E-mail to ☐ Personal E-mail ☐ Business E-mail

SESSIONS: Second Tuesday of each month, October 2026 to May 2027, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Session 1: Leadership Foundations & Self-Awareness – Understanding leadership styles, personal strengths, and values. (October 13, 2026)

Session 2: Team Leadership & Communication – Effective team building, interpersonal skills, and conflict resolution. (November 10, 2026)

Session 3: Financial Acumen for Leaders – Budgeting, financial literacy, and resource management for all sectors. (December 8, 2026)

Session 4: Economic Development & Local Industry Education – Understanding regional challenges and business opportunities. (January 12, 2027)

Session 5: Community Services & Civic Leadership – Exploring local government, public health, human services, nonprofits, and community partnerships. (February 9, 2027)

Session 6: Public Safety, Policy, & Justice Systems – Understanding law enforcement, EMS, emergency management, the judicial system, and public policy. (March 9, 2027)

Session 7: Workplace Culture & Team Success – Building equitable, diverse, and inclusive environments. (April 13, 2027)

Session 8: Strategic Planning & Measuring Impact – Tools for setting goals, measuring outcomes, and creating lasting change. (May 11, 2027)

ACCEPTANCE & TUITION:
Notification of selection into the Leadership Columbia-Greene Class of 2026-27 will be made by mid-September 2026. Upon acceptance into the Leadership Columbia-Greene Program, the tuition of $1,600 must be paid via check in full to the "*Columbia County Chamber Foundation*" no later than September 21, 2026. **Tuition is Non-Refundable.**

COMMITMENT:
Attendance at all eight (8) full-day sessions (one Tuesday a month from October to May) is **required**. Participants who have more than two (2) unexcused absences will not receive a certificate of completion from the program and employer will be notified.

SIGNATURES:

CANDIDATE: If selected as a Leadership Columbia-Greene Program participant, I am willing to commit the time necessary to be a contributing member of the class. I understand that I will attend the eight monthly sessions and graduation ceremony. I also commit to involving myself in the community upon graduation from the program and allow my name to be given out to community service organizations seeking volunteers.

Signature _____ Date:_____

EMPLOYER: I agree to allow my employee, if accepted, to commit the time necessary to be an active member of the Leadership Columbia-Greene class.

Employer's Signature: _____Date:_____

Print Name, Title, Organization: _____

E-mail Address (Employer) _____

EMPLOYER/FINANCIAL SPONSOR: Full tuition is $1,600. I agree to pay the Leadership Columbia-Greene tuition for the above applicant if accepted. I understand that tuition is due by September 21, 2026 and is non-refundable.

☐ Yes, I would like to contribute an additional $100 to the **Leadership Columbia-Greene Scholarship Fund.**

Scholarship contributions collected during this registration period will be used to fund a scholarship for a future Leadership Columbia-Greene cohort. The scholarship will provide tuition assistance to a nonprofit professional or solo business owner who might not otherwise have access to the program.

Employer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name, Title, Organization: _____

Email or mail your completed application (with supporting documents) to:

Columbia County Chamber of Commerce
mail@columbiachamber-ny.com
1 North Front Street
Hudson, NY 12534

Application Deadline: August 14, 2026.

Leadership Columbia-Greene is presented by Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and Greene County Chamber of Commerce. The program curriculum and presentation format was created by Pam Doran / La Era Digital.