



Leadership Ashe 2023



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
& COMMUNITY EDUCATION

What is Leadership Ashe?

TO INFORM...TO MOTIVATE...TO CHALLENGE! Leadership Ashe is an innovative leadership development program in partnership with several local organizations. This program is coordinated by Wilkes Community College's Workforce Development & Community Education program and the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce. The Ashe County Chamber of Commerce, specifically the Business & Community Development Committee, plays a pivotal role in the facilitation of the program. Many other local organizations and businesses are also involved in the program as host locations, tour sites, and session speakers.

This program is designed to meet our county's need for active participation by informed, educated citizens and local leaders. The program aims to identify potential leaders and provide them with the information and encouragement needed to spur local involvement. Graduates are challenged to apply their talents by becoming a part of community organizations, including public boards, non-profit groups, civic clubs, and the Chamber.

How is the Program Structured?

Leadership Ashe comprises 11 sessions that will provide leadership activities and tours of area businesses, organizations, and facilities. The program will begin in July with a retreat followed by the first program session and will conclude with an evening graduation ceremony in November. All sessions are planned by leaders in the topic areas who offer insightful information and thoughtful analysis. Sessions are designed to stimulate interest, awareness, and interaction and facilitate discussion. Participants are asked to make a major time commitment to attend these 11 sessions.

How are Participants Selected?

The class is open to 24 participants. *(Please note class size may change based on COVID-19 restrictions).* Prospective participants are encouraged to apply and should complete the enclosed application, which will be reviewed by a selection committee. After a thorough review of all submitted applications, participants will be selected to create a good cross-section of the community, representing geographical, occupational, racial, and general diversity.

What is the Program Cost?

The class tuition fee of \$275 includes program materials, graduation reception, and a diploma award. Additionally, graduates will receive continuing education credits for this program. A limited number of partial scholarships are available based on need. Program sponsors supplement other costs.

Apply Today!

We encourage you to apply soon as spots are limited! Applications should be returned by ***Friday, June 16, 2023***, to the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center or emailed to director@ashechamber.com. Applicants will be notified by email the week of June 19 *(Be sure to check your spam folder)*. Payment will be expected by July 14.

"Leadership Ashe was an immersive opportunity to learn about the community where I live and work. I thought I knew so much about Ashe County, but the class tested those assumptions. I regret not taking this opportunity sooner and would recommend it to anyone that is looking to take an active leadership role in our community."

Adam Stumb, 2022 Leadership Ashe Graduate



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Application Form

Contact Information

Name: _____ Nickname *(if any)*: _____

Personal Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

*Primary Email *(required)*: _____

Phone: _____ Hometown: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Emergency Contact Name & Phone: _____

Hobbies & Interests: _____

Employment Information

Name of Employer: _____ Bus. Phone: (____) _____

Bus. Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Bus. Email: _____ Bus. Website: _____

Title: _____ Length of Employment: _____

The responsibilities of my position include: _____

Education

High School: _____ Location: _____ Grad? *Y or N* Year: _____

College *(or other)*: _____ Location: _____ Grad? *Y or N* Year: _____

Community activities or organizations in which I have participated *(list in order of importance to you)*:

Activity: _____ Location: _____ Year(s): _____

Activity: _____ Location: _____ Year(s): _____

Activity: _____ Location: _____ Year(s): _____

Dietary Restrictions: Do you have any dietary restrictions we should be aware of? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please list: _____

Allergies/Medical: Do you have any allergies/medical conditions we should be aware of? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please list: _____



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You may write in your answers to the following questions or type separately and attach to the application.

What do you want us to know about you? _____

What three adjectives would you use to describe yourself? _____

What are your expectations of the Leadership Ashe program? _____

Which session are you the most interested in and why? _____

Expectations of Participants

Leadership Ashe is made possible by a collaborative effort of a committee that works hard to plan, organize, and provide the best possible experience for participants to see all that makes Ashe County the "Coolest Corner of North Carolina!" As a participant in Leadership Ashe, you are not only furthering your leadership knowledge, but you are also a representative of Wilkes Community College, the Chamber of Commerce, and your employer or organization. The utmost professional conduct should always be upheld when visiting various locations, communicating with representatives, listening to presenters, and the like.

Tremendous efforts are made to organize Leadership Ashe participant visits to various locations, and attendance at all scheduled sessions is expected. **To receive continuing education credits and to participate in the graduation ceremony, all participants must attend the retreat session and must have at least 80% attendance of all other sessions. If you cannot attend the retreat session or commit to at least 80% attendance, you will need to wait until the next year's program to apply so others can participate.**



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Participants will be expected to read a book prior to the retreat session. **We ask that all participants read this book by the retreat date as a discussion of this book will take place during the retreat.** Participants will be notified with their acceptance letters regarding the book selection.

Communication for Leadership Ashe is conducted via email. Participants are expected to check their email regularly during the program for general updates about sessions, including upcoming session reminders, site visit rules, or important scheduling changes. Emails will be sent from Becky Greer, rcgreer213@wilkescc.edu. Participants are also encouraged to complete evaluations after each session.

COVID-19 Statement:

Leadership Ashe will address current COVID-19 restrictions and communicate these with selected participants prior to the start of the program. We will follow all recommended guidelines that may be in place during this class as recommended or required by a combination of N.C. Dept. of Health & Human Services, AppHealthCare, Wilkes Community College, and the Ashe Chamber. Participants may be required to supply and correctly wear masks if required by a host facility.

Participant Authorization

By signing below, if selected for Leadership Ashe, I am committing to attend all sessions, including required attendance at the kickoff retreat event and the graduation event. I understand that if I do not attend 80% of the half-day sessions, I will be unable to qualify for continuing education credits or participate in graduation.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Employer Authorization

By signing below, as the employer or direct supervisor of _____, I authorize the employee to be absent from work to participate in Leadership Ashe during the dates & times shown on this application. I also understand that if the tuition of the abovementioned employee is paid by my organization and the employee is separated from us during the time of Leadership Ashe, the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce and/or Wilkes Community College is not responsible for reimbursement of this tuition to us.

Supervisor Email: _____ **Supervisor Phone:** _____

Signed: _____ **Print Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

Name of Business or Organization: _____



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Schedule of Sessions *(subject to change)*

**Session times will be determined and emailed to participants*

DATE	FOCUS AREA	DESCRIPTION
Week 1 July 28* <i>*required attendance</i>	Kickoff & Environmental Leadership 7:30 am – 5:00 pm	Full-Day Session (<i>casual dress</i>). Orientation, classmate networking, team-building exercises, leadership tenets, and book discussion. Breakfast items, lunch, and snacks provided. After lunch, a session on environmental topics will be the focus with special guests.
Week 2 August 3	Government Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Government officials and staff will discuss the departments, functions, and operations of county and municipal government.
Week 3 August 17	Tourism Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Learn about tourism efforts in the county. Presentations on marketing efforts and attractions. Hear from leaders on the benefits of tourism and its effect on our economy.
Week 4 August 31	Healthcare & Human Services Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Presentations and tours by local healthcare and human services organizations will focus on the variety of these services available in Ashe County.
Week 5 September 7	Agricultural Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Agriculture in Ashe County continues to be the foremost economic driver and a vital part of our economy. Participants will learn more about the county's diverse agriculture offerings during this session with presentations and tours.
Week 6 September 21	Technology Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	This session focuses on the technology that exists in our community. From fiber to state-of-the-art energy solutions and video/music/media production services, participants will tour several areas of interest and hear from multiple facets of technology present at local organizations.
Week 7 October 5	Entrepreneurial Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Participants will learn about the growing entrepreneurial scene in the Ashe County with special presentations by local entrepreneurs and other programs designed to benefit entrepreneurs.
Week 8 October 19	Hospitality & Entertainment Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Presentations and tours will feature local establishments and venues that cover the broad spectrum of hospitality and entertainment services in Ashe County.
Week 9 November 2	Education/Workforce Development Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Education leaders will discuss the challenges and opportunities of education in Ashe County.
Week 10 November 16	Industrial Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Participants will visit various industrial companies for a facility tour and will hear from representatives from each industry on services provided, created, or manufactured, as well as advantages and challenges facing industry in this region.
Week 11 November 30* <i>*required attendance</i>	Cultural Leadership 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm Wrap-up & Graduation Festivities 5:00 pm – until	Our cultural heritage, arts, and history have been a significant part of Ashe County and its communities. Local leaders examine the history and culture of Ashe County as well as the shifting and emerging cultures that continue to impact and shape our growing community. Participants will visit venues and have conversations that relate to the history and dynamic topics related to culture, both globally and locally. Course debrief & wrap up.