



LeadingAge®
Iowa

2027

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Why starts with You

www.LeadingAgeIowa.org/Leadership-Academy

Overview

The LeadingAge Iowa Leadership Academy is a self-reflective journey, preparing new and seasoned leaders to better understand their leadership strengths and take their leadership to another level. Throughout the journey, authentic transformational leadership will be explored. The resources shared during the summits are thought provoking and can be shared with team members at each organization.

During the four summits (February, April, June, and August), fellows will engage in individual and group exercises utilizing reflective, creative, and interactive education techniques. Fellows will enhance their leadership capacity through this challenging and engaging learning environment so they are better equipped to serve the aging services field.

Fellows also have the opportunity to develop strong relationships with aging services professionals from across the state, the coaches, and the facilitator which provides resources and support well after the conclusion of the four summits. The Annual Conference registration is also included in the tuition to enhance the experience and networking opportunities.

Target Audience

The program is available to anyone who works for a LeadingAge Iowa member community irrespective of clinical or managerial experience. Leadership potential within one's organization is far more important than specific job title. We encourage the identification and application of staff that are emerging leaders within member communities.

Sponsored by:



Guide



Julie Thorson began her career with Friendship Haven as a part-time social worker. She then went on to serve as activity director, admission coordinator, sales director, sales and marketing director, development director, and administrator of the Tompkins Health Center, in 2012 she was named president/CEO. Julie graduated from the University of Kansas with a BA in broadcast news. After working in her field for two years in Mason City, she longed to return to her hometown, so she returned to Fort Dodge and got that first job with Friendship Haven. She knew almost immediately that long-term care was her passion. Julie was the 2018 recipient of the LeadingAge Dr. Herbert Shore Outstanding Mentor of the Year award. She is a graduate of the LeadingAge Larry Minnix Leadership Academy and served as a coach for the Academy during 2020 and 2021. She also completed the LeadingAge Leadership Educator Program in 2019.

Application Deadline

January 15, 2027

February 17–18, 2027

Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge

Theme: Introduction and self-leading

Summit 1

April 7–8, 2027

Deerfield Retirement Community,
Urbandale

Theme: Transformational leadership/
leading without title

Summit 2

June 2–3, 2027

Oaknoll Retirement Residence, Iowa City

Theme: Leading and coaching others

Summit 3

August 18–19, 2027

Perry Lutheran Homes, Perry

Theme: Reflection and going forward

Summit 4

May 5–6, 2027

2026 Annual Conference

The Meadows Events & Conference Center, Altoona

What's Included

- Custom 360-degree leadership evaluation.
- Small group and individual coaching sessions.
- Community site tours.
- Engagement with seasoned aging services leaders and other field experts.
- Leadership books and articles.
- Refreshment breaks and lunches for each of the summits
- Dinner with faculty, coaches, and fellows on the first night of each summit.
- Signature Event Registration (valued at \$400+)

**Signature
Event
Registration
Included**

Participant Criteria

- Class members (referred to as “fellows”) must be members of LeadingAge Iowa and complete a brief, online application form to be considered for acceptance. The applicant’s sponsoring organization must complete their portion of the online application as well. In the event a Fellow no longer meets the program’s eligibility criteria, including being employed by a supporting LeadingAge Iowa member organization, his/her continued involvement in the Leadership Academy is subject to review and should be brought to the attention of LeadingAge Iowa staff.
- The selection committee will consist of Julie Thorson, LAI CEO and LAILA coaches.
- There will be a minimum class size of 12 fellows and a maximum class size of 21 fellows.
- The program’s interactive nature demands a high level of participation and requires that Fellows complete all projects, assignments, and readings as well as attend all program-related meetings, sit visits, sessions, and conference calls.

Application Process

Applications are due on **January 15, 2027**. Tuition is \$2,750 (non-refundable and non-transferable) per participant. Tuition includes meeting materials and meals provided during sessions. Lodging and travel expenses will be incurred by the member community. No cancellations, refunds, or partial refunds will be processed after the application deadline. [Click here](#) to apply online.



“I recently had the incredible opportunity over the last 6 months to participate in the LeadingAge “Leadership Academy,” and I can’t recommend it enough! This experience has truly transformed me, both as a leader and as a person. The insights and growth I’ve gained have made me stronger in my role at work and more thoughtful in my daily life. If you ever get the chance to take part in this program, don’t hesitate—it’s a game-changer! So grateful for this journey of self-improvement and leadership development.”

“What I liked best was the leadership mentors and the variety of tools that we can use in our day to day life that were shared.”

“Julie is very knowledgeable and confident in what she shares. She has a system in place that allows everyone to feel heard without pressure to share.”

**Comments
from previous
classes**

Our Leadership Academy comes highly recommended with 100% of attendees saying they would recommend the program to their colleagues.